

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN OUTLINES POLICIES BEFORE CONGRESS

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[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin before the National Congress in Buenos Aires -- live]

[Excerpts] Honorable Congress: Labor Day has many meanings for the Argentine people. This is the occasion when the executive branch, according to the constitutional principle of separation of powers, reports to the National Congress on the guidelines of its government actions, defines its goal for fulfilling its mandate, and reports to the people, and the provinces, through state representatives, about public matters.

This is also an occasion to remember with gratitude the delegates of the constituent assembly who approved the national Constitution in 1853, delegates whose inspiration and wisdom are sources of permanent orientation in the progress of the Republic toward its great destiny of peace, unity, and democracy.

Labor Day has a special meaning for workers. This is a day they chose to talk against injustice and to promise to eliminate injustice through work and to recognize the value of their influence in politics. This Labor Day also adds a special feeling. It reminds us of the baptism of fire marked with blood in defense of national honor for those who went to the battlefield to die with courage at the service of the fatherland. Their action ensured that our glorious history remained intact and that the commitment of the people with their forefathers, who under similar circumstances knew how to die with honor and determination, be renewed.

The republican, representative, and federal system was restored in Argentina 140 days ago. During this short time we have been able to listen to the requests of the people, who are beginning to find in democracy a natural way of coexistence. However, we would not be truthful if we did not say that the country is still suffering the consequences of profound distortions of values, that there are still traces of actions carried out during a corporate state when each sector selfishly thought only in the defense of its own interests.

Democracy will only fully function once we are all willing to put the interest of the nation before our private ideas -- ideas are useless if they are not harmonized with the ideas of the rest of society. Dialogue is necessary and those involved in dialogue must be united. This unity demands a high spirit of reconciliation. Without reconciliation and dialogue, the tendency toward divisions will appear and increase. Any kingdom divided against itself becomes a ruin and that house will fall on top of itself, say the preachers of the gospel.

A democratic government must always consider that within the institutions disagreements are an effective way of cooperation and an exercise of unquestionable rights. The opposition has the job of checking government actions and proposing legitimate alternatives. An opposition trying to annul the government would stay away from the democratic rules of the game. The development of plurality within unity will help the growth of the Argentine democratic tradition.

Dialogue is a difficult task but it is necessary. If real dialogue does not exist, peace and order cannot be achieved. We are certain that all the people want peace, ensuring the possibility of searching for greater freedom with greater security and well-being. Peace cannot be established or preserved by itself. Reconciliation and dialogue must be introduced in the social life of the nation to ensure progress.

We believe that the nation can be reasonably optimistic in view of the recovery of freedom, democracy, the morale of government officials, justice, and authority, all of which we have achieved. However, if despite all this we overlook the serious threat of a possible fragmentation of the Republic, then we would be making possible the same.

On 30 October, the Argentine people voted in favor of national unity and in doing so they reasserted their rights to life and freedom, voting against all intolerance. This mandate presupposes a strict moral obligation both for those in government as well as for those in the opposition. Neither we nor the opposition can modify the will of the Argentine people, who have expressed their support for democratic coexistence. Neither we nor the opposition can ignore reality, and reality shows us that Argentina does not have the experience of two centuries of an established democracy, but that of a building democracy that should be protected by all of us through our words and deeds.

In the recent past, honorable nations have understood the meaning of a transition and the true rules of play that must prevail so that it may not be a new interval between two dictatorships.

It is not our intention to transfer to the opposition this responsibility, which we fully assume by seeking to achieve national reconciliation and dialogue.

On 10 December we said right here that a new vitality will guide all government actions: rectitude in our procedure. We also noted that we would be confronting many problems, but that we would strive to govern honorably.

We have established a government in Argentina, a government that in the proper term of the word we lacked. We have also established an honorable government.

We Argentines have been able to implement the full operation of three branches of government and to implement the federal system. Sometimes we tend to forget that in the recent past, these things were nonexistent. We Argentines have been able to rescue freedom and democracy amidst great difficulties and even contradictions. But no one can deny that we are seeking to achieve the prevalence of social justice. [applause] But this was also forgotten in the recent past, during a period of deep insensitivity.

We Argentines have fully recovered our international prestige. Dozens of government leaders have visited our country, which was absolutely isolated before the restoration of democracy. We Argentines have now placed in force coherent domestic and foreign policies, which undoubtedly are marked by positive and negative aspects, but they are completely understandable. These policies replace a line of action that subordinated the ends to the means and which made the country vacillate in all sectors.

We Argentines have recovered freedom in our universities where the noise of life replaces the deep decay of fear.

Our achievements during these past months of democracy have not been meager, and it would be good for us to review them so that we will be able to defend them against those who seek to divide us in keeping with their absurd or frankly delirious ideas.

We are not overlooking the fact that we are confronting the extremely serious socioeconomic situation that we have inherited, but the common effort of the entire nation will allow us, God willing, to overcome this situation.

Honorable members of Congress, we have inherited a country with a government that was completely distorted and placed at the service of an authoritarian and repressive political program which resulted in a long night of fear and death. Within this context, the Interior Ministry was the political axis of the apparatus that controlled civilian society, which was denied the right to freedom, while public opinion was manipulated with the objective of not only trying to repress political opinion but, what is even more serious, to degrade political activity itself. [applause]

Repression, terror, and the systematic violation of human rights were the elements making up an authoritarian sociopolitical plan, a regressive and elitist plan, which laid the Republic to waste. With the intention of changing that picture and making viable the desire for a change among the Argentine people, in these 140 days of government we have initiated a reversal of that process, by means of various measures. We will mention some of them. The repeal of the so-called Amnesty Law; the criminal prosecution of political-military heads of terrorist organizations for homicide, illegal association, public incitement of crimes, the cover up of crimes, and other causes that may come to light; the criminal prosecution of the members of the first three military juntas who have been brought to trial for their responsibility in the actions chosen to repress subversion; the trial to determine the responsibility for the Malvinas war; and the introduction of the bill for the protection of constitutional order and democratic life. The old crime of rebellion has been raised to the category of attack against constitutional order, the public threat to commit such deeds is punishable, and it has been established that criminal prosecution for those crimes cannot be prescribed while the disturbance of order continues.

The existing repressive apparatus has been dismantled; the code of penal procedures has been modified to improve the situation in the prisons, by modifying the rules for conditional sentences, for repeat offenses, and for release from prison, and by establishing habeas corpus for sentences handed down by military courts against civilians. The Military Justice Code has been modified by establishing a right of appeal which can be used both by the accused and by the accuser for recourse to the common civilian courts. Various degrees of guilt in the illegal repression of terrorism are foreseen; the sentences given to civilians by military courts are being reviewed, and those courts have been deprived of their competence to try common crimes committed by military or security personnel, thus putting an end to the authoritarian rules which were a colonial inheritance in force for 160 years. The body of de facto laws on procedures against terrorism has been repealed and a corps of judicial police has been created. Judicial offices have been reopened with the function to act in pretrial inquests, and the study plans for candidates for federal police officers have been restructured. Illegal economic acts committed by the de facto government are being investigated, as well as all economic measures that have been approved and which may have harmed the state or society, to establish whether those responsible should be put on trial.

Upon assuming the government, we also inherited a critical deficit in the public sector. In 1966, this deficit totaled 4.57 percent; in 1976 it increased to 11.76 percent; and by the end of 1983, it totaled 14.79 percent. This deficit, compared in percentages to the gross domestic product increased in alarming proportions as a result of the unwise handling of government finances that did not result in social benefits for the people but for a small privileged group.

During the previous administration, there was also a relaxation of tax collection measures which resulted in an important fall in tax collection on commercial transactions and incomes, mainly IVA [Value Added Tax] and incomes. This, jointly with the lack of effectiveness in controlling spending, resulted in a fiscal deficit totaling 14 percent of the GDP and which in the last 3-month period of the year increased to 17 percent of the GDP.

This situation was made even worse by the increase in the inflation rate, which month by month deteriorated fiscal earning in real terms.

Upon assuming the government, we inherited a spiraling inflationary process. This issue -- inflation -- represents an old challenge that this generation of Argentines must overcome, because it is a deeply rooted vice that must be inexorably overcome if we are to achieve the moral and economic recovery of the Republic. What occurred in 1983, when the inflation rate reached an unprecedented historical peak, is a serious warning to all Argentines. The defeat of inflation is one of our most important challenges.

Upon assuming the government, monetary expansion had precipitated to critical levels. The monetary base had increased to a monthly rate totaling (21.4) percent during the last 3 months of the year, and to a rate totaling 30.4 percent in December 1983. This process affected the inflationary process which, in turn, despite prevailing high nominal interest rates, resulted in real terms in negative interest rates of bank deposits, thus discouraging savings. The people's inclination to keep deposits in the financial system was deteriorating, thus putting pressure on prices and concentrating short-term deposits. All of these factors resulted in a notable deterioration of credits to the private sectors, which by 1983 had decreased by 20 percent.

Upon assuming the government, this administration found that the financial system was experiencing a deep crisis, and in addition there was a high lack of liquidity of credit portfolios of a large number of companies, which were distorted in view of their overgrown structures. By December 1983, loans in this situation represented an overall total of 60 percent of the net assets of these enterprises, and 18 percent of total loans.

Gentlemen, what has just been described shows an obvious ineffectiveness in the operation costs of the financial system. By December 1983, the average financial operation costs totaled 23 percent per annum, a cost that is approximately 5 percent higher than the average cost in other countries.

Upon assuming the government, this administration also inherited a foreign debt that was to a large extent contracted by the authoritarian regime. By June 1966, the Argentine foreign debt totaled \$2.673 billion; by December of 1975, it has increased to \$7.875 billion; while by December 1983, the estimated foreign debt surpassed \$42.6 billion. Within an 8-year period, the Argentine foreign debt had increased 5 times, but this amount was not used in specific national development programs or to improve the well-being of the people. Also, the payments due on the foreign debt are accumulating in such a way that this year the debt due totals approximately \$20 billion. This is creating great problems for refinancing the debt.

The balance of payments has shown a deficit since 1980. During the last year the trade balance was favorable by \$3,146,000,000, but the current-account balance is negative by \$2.57 billion because of the large interest obligations, which represented about 70 percent of last year's exports.

When I took over the presidency the country only had \$102 million in freely available international reserves in addition to a small amount of Special Drawing Rights and gold reserves which, if sold, could have had unpredictable consequences. In the face of the reduced available resources there were urgent obligations for much greater amounts which created a highly compromising situation because it deprived the country of decision-making autonomy.

In order to face the unbalanced situation between the low level of reserves and the foreign obligations, a decision was made to suspend the sale of foreign currency for payments abroad which, by 9 December, created an accumulation of payments due on the foreign debt of \$2.545 billion. The executive branch had to face not only this situation but also a very high level of unemployment, low salaries, lack of medical attention among the poor sectors, a demoralized administration, and the absence of a housing policy.

This is a great challenge. We must reactivate the economy, increase real salaries, and stop inflation. If positive results are not achieved in these three fields, a stable situation cannot be achieved in the other areas. We are going to concentrate our efforts in this direction. Economic reactivation must be the result of a 5-percent growth in the GDP. Real salaries must increase from 6 to 8 percent this year, and inflation must be reduced to about 50 percent in keeping with the general price levels.

The immediate problem we had to face was to prevent the large amount of money used for financing the budget deficit of the last quarter of 1983 from being transferred to prices, money also used for financing the deficit of January 1984. This was to be prevented by increasing the level of activity by ensuring benefits to producers and fighting unemployment, but without affecting business profits or decapitalizing public enterprises. At the same time, this task had to be compatible with the increase in real salaries. Therefore, a dynamic strategy was approved within a long-range plan.

In the area of salary policies, we have made great progress. In some sectors of private activity real salaries have been abruptly increased, but in the public sector the salary increase in the first quarter was proportional to the annual rate. From November 1983 to April 1984, the minimum nominal salary increased from 1,800 pesos to 5,030 pesos, which means that salaries tripled during this period. Also, the average salary of the workers is above the amount calculated to cover basic family food expenses. Family allowances were increased and the value-added tax was eliminated on food and medical products. [applause]

The implementation of the National Nutrition Program, PAN [Programa Alimentario Nacional], has been initiated and will signify a nonmonetary increase of real salaries for the most needy sectors. The education policy, based on a scheme including the concept of social aid, and the health care measures will point toward the same goal.

The level of unemployment among workers has been reduced rapidly. The economy is showing very clear signs of expansion, except for construction, which is still lagging behind. The progress of the regional economies will allow us to start reversing the process which led to their strangulation. The situation of small- and medium-sized businesses has improved remarkably, and advantages have thus been taken of increasing demand. Industrial production has grown in almost all sectors, but in some sectors the growth in demand has not been accompanied by a growth in supply, despite the fact that the conditions for such growth are at hand. We should warn that we will stop any kind of maneuvers to cause shortages through an unjustified slowing down of production and, if necessary, we will adopt the measures established in the Law of Supplies [Ley de Abastecimiento]. [applause]

We should also stress that so far we have not obtained the expected results in the fight against inflation. As we have already mentioned, the causes of the excessive monetary growth are the fiscal deficits and the monetary regulation fund [cuenta de regulacion monetaria], to which we now add the unavoidable need to reconstitute the Central Bank reserves. To this situation should be added the need to restore the income structure for various social sectors, and to adjust relative prices, all this within the framework of a tremendously powerful inflationary process.

There are also other important factors, such as the growth in demand as against a relatively stable supply situation in regard to foodstuffs. The short supply of cattle and the lack of an effective marketing mechanism for substitute products partly explain this situation, but we should also point out that there are those who have not understood their social responsibility and who should contribute to the organization of the production and distribution system, but who persist in their maneuvers and speculation activities.

In the external sector, we have tried to ensure the marketing of the products available for export. This objective is being reached. At the same time, we are seeking the orderly supply of imported goods and inputs in order to ensure the upkeep of domestic activities.

We are succeeding in restoring the foreign currency reserves, and we are actively negotiating the huge inherited foreign debt. The negotiations are going on normally, according to planned stages which will allow us to meet our foreign commitments, ensure the supply of inputs, and obtain new credits for investments. It is important to stress once more the great importance of the financial operation, made effective on 30 March with the brother countries of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil and with the participation of the U.S. Government as well as a contribution by a group of commercial banks. This operation is a true example of what can be achieved in the field of international cooperation when there is good faith, goodwill, and understanding.

We have not achieved all the objectives we proposed for ourselves, but we are progressing along the right road. We will double our efforts to achieve internal equilibrium and a reordering of the external sector. We will correct the distortions still existing in the production process and in the distribution of goods. For example, in the construction sector which is still lagging behind, we will give a still stronger stimulus to our housing plan. In addition to the public investment plan which our situation permits, we will give stimulus to an increase in economic activity and real salaries, naturally putting this within the framework of the country's possibilities in order to prevent exaggerated expansion from adversely affecting our objectives.

We will continue the difficult struggle against inflation. We have already reduced the fiscal deficit, and we will persist with that policy. Public expenditures will expand, but an improvement in the functioning of the public sector will be obtained through a better tax collection system and through new taxes, already approved or to be submitted for the consideration of the National Congress.

Regarding the measures implemented to initiate the reform of the state apparatus, there a commission has been formed to analyze which activities should be excluded from the public sector, because it is believed that they have nothing to do with its essential functions. This commission, formed by officials from the presidency, six ministries, and the three big state banks, has submitted a preliminary report after 45 days of work. The report lists the names of 19 companies and corporations that the commission believes should in the end be transferred to the private sector.

Honorable members of Congress, We have repeatedly stated that democracy in no way may be affirmed unless we have labor unions which are strong, representative, and democratic, both in their operations and in their organizations. Eight years of administration of the labor unions, an administration which was in more than 90 percent of the cases exercised by a decision of the military regime, have resulted in a situation which demands a revision, a difficult one. We have repeatedly raised objections to the methods used by the military regime for normalizing the labor unions since we believed, and still do, that those were not democratic methods; that authoritarian vices which were subordinated to the political interests of the regime persisted. When we assumed office, the situation that we inherited was marked by a prolonged paralyzation of union activities, not only in-house activities but also, and this is essential, activities relating to an adequate defense of the interests of workers.

Today we may say that the effects of the measure suspending those activities, a measure that was taken in 1976, have been nefarious for the society and the economy and in the preservation of the basic standards of living for broad sectors of the population.

Honorable members of Congress, we must assist the new labor unions now being organized. These unions must be politically and economically powerful, and they must be essentially humane. In order to achieve that goal we have taken the following actions.

We have submitted to Congress a draft bill for the reorganization of the labor unions, a draft bill which contemplates several options seeking to include all sectors, existing and pre-existing ones, for the management and control of the unions; the supervision of electoral and pre-electoral practices carried out by the electoral body; the representation of minorities; and the elimination of restrictive clauses. This bill was drafted through unanimous actions, and its rejection by the honorable Senate led the government to new approaches in order to achieve the unyielding goal of the democratic normalization of the Argentine labor unions.

Another action taken was the ratification of the programmed pledges through the Council on Minimum Wages with Escalator Clauses, with the planned participation of the labor unions in organizations that support concerted actions. This draft bill took into account the need for updating minimum wages, which was necessary in view of price increases and the need to change the socioeconomic criterion determining the type of minimum wage with escalator clause.

We also note the formulation of a presidential proposal for all labor unions seeking to establish a board related to prices and salaries, variables whose interrelations are vital for the preservation of salaries and the sound profitability of the productive apparatus; a draft bill for establishing an economic and social council, which is instrumental for drawing guidelines concerning the growth of the economy and the participation in its profits; a draft bill for the instrumentation of social rights which are provided for under Article No 14 bis of the Constitution and in the Labor and Social Security Code.

Honorable members of Congress, during this term, our administration will reestablish and update the legislation concerning collective labor agreements by implementing legislation which provides for a permanent bargaining system by means of labor-management arbitration boards, or any other boards, to deal with and to solve labor-management conflicts.

We will also seek to pass a law establishing the total leave to which a worker is entitled during his active duty period and the payment of the difference provided for under the labor contracts law by the Family Allowances Fund.

We will also foster the development and strengthening of provincial organizations related to labor matters and with the assistance of involved sectors we will change the current law on social work.

We will also amend Law No 9,688 and cancel the compulsory fund deposits at the Labor Accident Fund for the payment of fixed [tarifarias] compensations in the case of labor lawsuits.

These achievements and projects confirm the proposals made and they seek to restore to a waiting society, which is showing signs of frustration, the pace and dynamics characterized by the accelerated growth which has made our homeland a territory of peace and promises.

Honorable members of Congress, the government will always be willing to serve the cause of social peace because peace is the necessary condition to attain development and national reconstruction. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress, we have duly stated that the final establishment of a democratic system in Argentina required, among other things, a reorganization of the Armed Forces so that they would serve not themselves but the entire nation. This reorganization had to make possible a consolidation of a joint military power subordinate to the Constitution and with no other objective than to defend the Republic and preserve the Constitution within the general framework established by military rules and regulations. In this regard, we agree that this reorganization calls for constant, dedicated, uninterrupted, and consistent efforts which must clearly show the strong desire of the government, the Armed Forces, and the people to include the Armed Forces in the national, popular, rational, and democratic project that we have formulated based on the Constitution and designed to serve supreme national objectives. [applause]

The attainment of such an ambitious objective presents various aspects which, although they are not incompatible among themselves, must be inserted in an order of priorities which includes the necessary, indispensable, and unavoidable revision of the role of each officer within his force and of each force within the framework of established national objectives.

In our 10 December message to the honorable legislative assembly, we said that special attention had to be given to the subject of national defense because it is above all the Armed Forces which are the military instruments of defense.

We found an Armed Forces with uncoordinated professional actions, overlapping functions, and an inadequate framework for joint actions. All this diminished their fighting capacity and increased expenses.

We found a military budget on the order of 6 percent of the gross domestic product; a large part of the budget resources committed for future fiscal years as a result of approval purchases, something which constituted a high level of indebtedness; an allocation of resources which did not respond to the need for joint military planning, but rather to historic guidelines and indicators that did not reflect the real situation; a level of expenses that was difficult to reduce due to functioning and maintenance expenses and high wages; a retirement system that did not best utilize personnel as it caused the retirement of young officers and an increase in retired personnel; and an imbalance in the allocation of funds for military spending that was detrimental to other extremely important sectors such as expenses for national defense.

As political power was divided among the Armed Forces, we found in the production sector a considerable lack of coordination among firms regarding production plans, marketing policies, and business management in general terms. Enterprises were not effectively supervised because the people who managed them were also in charge of supervising them and verifying the results of trade operations. As a result of this, we found duplication and at times triplication of efforts and activities in various fields of the industrial sector.

Those who were responsible for establishing the requirements for equipping the Armed Forces did not know the production capacity of the enterprises. There was also a deficient trade structure regarding the respective production. Regarding foreign trade, each branch of the Armed Forces acted individually and in view of this uncoordinated procedure, all efforts were ineffective or inadequate.

Regarding research, each organization or institute developed its own programs without coordinating their respective actions.

All this shows the difficulties we had to confront in the structure of the military budget in making important budget cuts without affecting the normal development of the operational capacity of the Armed Forces of causing a critical budget problem.

It is obvious that we shall be unable to decrease even further the defense budget in view of the present structure and organization of the Armed Forces, but this presupposes that we must carry out a reform of the military sector that will allow for this budget cut.

Regarding ideas, it is not the government's goal to standardize the thinking of military citizens since like all other citizens, Armed Forces personnel have the right to freely choose their ideals within the framework of the Constitution and in keeping with national interests. For personnel on active duty, there are those restrictions in keeping with the exercise of command and obedience, and for retired personnel the limits are established by the Military Justice Code and by the National Penal Code. For both, the ultimate framework is the ethics established by General San Martin. [applause]

We have achieved much progress: the amendment to the Military Justice Code; the hierarchization of the joint staff and the implementation of joint military planning; the centralization at the Defense Ministry of all military companies with the objective of coordinating and improving their actions; the individual subjection before constitutional judges of those military and political leaders of the previous administration; above all, the strengthening of disciplinary measures, which is completely guaranteed by the president who in keeping with his duties as commander in chief of the Armed Forces has completely assumed the power granted by the Constitution; and the establishment of a reciprocal loyalty system at the ethical, professional, and political level. [applause]

Honorable members of Congress, during the last administration we witnessed the lack of capacity to implement a coherent and unified foreign policy. We had an incoherent, wavering foreign policy, not unified because there was a feudalization of power within the government, and because the structure of the executive branch itself was not unified.

It was under these circumstances that Argentines and the rest of the world witnessed the development of an erratic and unpredictable foreign policy. Argentine foreign policy, therefore, did not promote new spheres to develop its international policy, but limited itself to solving those problems caused by the domestic policy at the international level. Thus, the predominant role was that of a passive foreign policy that did not create guidelines, but only followed them.

This defensive foreign policy dealt with only two strictly foreign policy issues: the two southern conflicts and the effort to create a certain Argentine image abroad. As a result of this policy we inherited a heavy burden in view of the tremendous errors made during the negotiations aimed at solving the two southern conflicts, an increasing lack of credibility within the international community of nations, and, lastly, a notorious international isolation.

The mistakes in leadership have not only resulted in a weak and defensive foreign policy, but also in an undermining of the institutional tools to implement it. Therefore, formal ceremonies replaced the task of drafting new policies and the outside world was seen as a permanent threat to Argentina instead of a natural environment for developing its capacity.

We have experienced a wavering foreign policy that ranged from isolationism to dreams of hegemony, but lacking a sensible guiding of the pendulum's rhythm.

There are countries that have isolated themselves to achieve development, but it seems that Argentina isolated itself to hide its lack of development and to justify at the internal level what it could not justify abroad. [applause]

Therefore, one of the main objectives of our foreign policy is to overcome this international isolation. To do this, we not only have to create a flow from abroad to Argentina, we must also overcome this isolation so that Argentine society may expand itself within the international community.

Argentina will make its presence felt in the world because we can use our heads and because we can do great things. There are those who wanted us to think small, who wanted us to feel like a small country and like small citizens. [applause]

Let no one think that this government supports hegemonic dreams. I simply want to reassert the need to be present on the international level by upholding the sensible positions of a developing society that is trying to achieve the well-being of its citizens

Argentina has to open its arms to the world to gain international support, because a real Argentina -- not one invented by publicity campaigns, but one that is actively present within the international community -- will undoubtedly guarantee the stability of the nation and its democracy.

The seriousness of the isolation we were experiencing lies in the fact that we were tremendously limiting the spectrum of our political alliances. It is precisely by expanding to the maximum our capacity for political dialogue with those countries with which we share closer ties -- either because we share similar situations or similar values -- that we shall be able to achieve political independence. Thus, one of the basic objectives of the foreign policy we have been implementing is to expand the number and the spectrum of our interlocutors.

We are convinced that the greater the international support Argentina is able to achieve, the less dependent it will be. Therefore, we want to make sure that this international support is not achieved as a result of erratic movements or as the result of the prevailing situation.

We are replacing the anarchy that has characterized our international policy with a rational and consistent position that will allow our interlocutors to know what Argentina expects from each one of them, and to say what it is willing to yield. We are actively creating a pluralist foreign policy based on an unprejudiced international dialogue but one which does not surrender our basic values.

It is in keeping with this policy that we share with developing countries the problems of development, of discriminatory trade policies, of multinational companies, and the struggle to achieve a more just world. This sharing of interests creates the proper atmosphere for carrying out a dialogue in which we are actively participating.

But it must be clearly established that this dialogue does not undermine our basic convictions: We believe in individual freedom, in a pluralist democracy without any restrictions or censorship; we believe that Western values are valid and that they will lead us to the path that will allow us to achieve the well-being and happiness of our nation. [applause]

We are a nonaligned country because we are greatly concerned about the negative impact that our countries are experiencing as a result of the East-West confrontation. But let no one think that because of this we are out of context with our historical and geographical reality. Our history and geography make us a part of the Western world, but let no one think that because of this fact we are part of a specific bloc. [applause]

In these last months of our administration, Latin America has been a priority area in this undertaking that seeks to end the isolation of the country and to reestablish international credibility toward Argentina. Proof of this has been the active presence of Argentina at regional forums and the notable strengthening of bilateral relations with Latin American sister nations. The agreements and treaties that have been signed with Latin American countries in the last 4 months are a result of this strengthening of bilateral relations.

Moreover, we have reasserted our conviction that it will be through increasing integration programs that our region will find the path that will allow it to develop to its full potential.

The great crisis 50 years ago compelled us to turn back toward our nations, and the present crisis, which is perhaps deeper than that one, makes us again turn toward the region. We are convinced that those old dreams of Latin American integration will cease to be an aspiration, shared but sometimes rhetorical, and will instead be transformed into an imperative need, derived from the ever less understanding attitude of the powerful countries, which persist in ignoring us. The vigorous impetus toward Latin American integration in which we are engaged will undoubtedly change the framework of and the solution to old conflicts which still exist among many of our countries, just as the greater economic integration which has taken place in other continents gradually changed the nature and meaning of the traditional disputes among those countries.

Our policy regarding the ever more serious and worrisome Central American conflict has also been clearly explained and executed. We have expressed our support for the Contadora Group and its efforts to reach a negotiated solution to the conflict. Our policy in that subregion has followed the following basic principles: to respect the non-intervention principle and the self-determination of nations, to favor the establishment of pluralistic democratic systems, and to condemn any expansion of the conflict to place it within the framework of the East-West confrontation. In this connection we wish to draw the attention of all the parties involved to the tragic consequences which an expansion of this conflict would have, not only for the Central American peoples, but also for the stability and security of the region.

Our policy of strengthening the links with the international community has been expressed through the signing of numerous international documents, among which should be mentioned the American Human Rights Convention, or the San Jose de Costa Rica Pact; the cooperation agreement with Nicaragua; the agreement with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and with the Intergovernmental Committee for Migrations in order to make viable the support of those organizations for the return of Argentine exiles; the joint Argentine-Chilean Declaration of Peace and Friendship; the agreement through an exchange of notes between Argentina and Cuba granting a credit line for the purchase of Argentine products; the agreement between the Argentine Government and the United Nations on Argentine cooperation with developing countries through ECLA; and the agreement with Mexico, signed during the Mexican president's visit, on bilateral economic cooperation, shipping, tourism, economic and social planning, bilateral economic cooperation [as heard], and the mechanism of the compensated trade program.

In this same field, the following bills have been submitted to the honorable Congress: ratification of the American Human Rights Convention, or San Jose de Costa Rica pact, and the bill on normalization of the foreign service with regulation decree. We have submitted for joint treatment the International Pact on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights; the optional protocol to the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights; the repeal of the Nationality and Citizenship Law and the return to the rules of the earlier law; and the modification of Article 6 of Law No 23,027, or the declaration of the National River Plate Basin Commission.

The repeatedly expressed principle of peaceful solutions to controversies has been put into practice in the two situations inherited from the past regime, that is, the Beagle question and that of our Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands.

The dispute with Chile over the southern zone, which for many years has frustrated our desire for peace and cooperation with our neighboring Republic, has been dealt with by the executive branch, taking into account two basic aspects: In the first place the conviction that the current diplomatic negotiation, conducted under the auspices of His Holiness John Paul II, is the most suitable peaceful method to promptly reach a satisfactory arrangement. If we were to leave that path, we would create the latent possibility for a conflict with resulting incidents, negative interpretations, and war fever which would only harm the consolidation of internal tranquillity. The possibility of a conflict is not in line with our intention of strengthening relations with the Latin American republics and is contrary to the security of a region whose peaceful development is indispensable to achieve a growing and effective influence for us throughout this continent.

In the second place, the executive branch wishes to report to the honorable Congress that the talks and exchanges which have been taking place between our delegates and the Chilean representatives since 23 January 1984, as well as those which have been going on with the members of the mediation office, allow us to say that the outlook for a prompt solution to the century-long dispute has been improved by the content of the latest talks and the constructive spirit which we have found among the officials of the Holy See.

If no problems arise we will be able to sign a treaty reflecting, in a just and reasonable manner, the aspirations of the people of the Republic, protecting our permanent interests and fulfilling the objectives of the platforms of the majority of the political parties which are represented in this honorable Congress and who will be in charge of making the final decision on this issue. [applause]

Concerning the Malvinas Islands, we have a definitive position: We will not for one minute cease our struggle for full recovery of our rights over the Malvinas, the South Georgia, and the South Sandwich Islands. Let there be no question on this: We will not veer from this course.

Yet we also clearly state that the international policy of the Argentine democracy is based, as we said earlier, on the principle of the peaceful solution of conflicts among nations and respect, in this particular case, for the decisions of the UN General Assembly.

We hope to close the gap existing between ourselves and Great Britain within this context. We expect the British Government to recognize the spirit behind our action and to show an equally great desire to solve this conflict.

I would like to conclude by pointing out how the Argentine image has changed in the last few years, years during which our nation was seen as one where basic human rights were violated by terrorism and repression. In this field we have gone from night to day. Argentina is now loved and respected by the international community. There is truly a world awareness of the miracle of the Argentine democracy and the nature of the moral renewal identifying it.

We are answering the challenge imposed on us by this new situation which consists in not only being a nation where human rights are respected but also a nation which from now on can also voice its concern in the face of human rights violations any place in the world. [applause]

Everyone should know that this coherent Argentine attitude, which is not ideological, will win for Argentina significant international recognition.

We do not wish to be a military power but we do wish to be and can be a moral power.
[applause]

Yrigoyen has already said that the aspirations of the South American people are to become entities run by such high ethical principles that their power cannot become a risk to justice or a shadow over the sovereignty of other states.

Honorable Congress, of all the things I have said I would most like to make it clear that the government is working under dramatic circumstances to effectively do away with injustice, privileges, and illegal procedures. In the face of adversity our coexistence must be unified and based on three principles: political freedom, social justice, and the awareness that social claims can only be effectively fulfilled in a democracy. We want a united country around the great national challenge of our times: the reconstruction of Argentina. And this is why I point out to all my countrymen the urgent need to make a great effort to exercise their individual and collective responsibilities.

This is the time for people to ask what they can do for the Republic, what we should all do for the nation. We should make plans for the future and get ready for it now; therefore we must act nobly by leaving behind minor differences which can divide us in the task of facing the vital problems of the nation. We do not ignore it, we point to it, that there are people and sectors who put their greatest energy in minor issues, trying to change the path of society. They are not able to see the future or understand that the people have already chosen their path: to rebuild Argentina. [applause]

We have faith and confidence in the future of the nation and we want to share with all the people the results of all the efforts made to consolidate the institutions of the Republic and reach the greatness we all want.

Honorable members of Congress, with these humble words I now declare the regular session of Congress open. [applause]

CAPUTO ON OFFICIAL 1-DAY VISIT TO FRANCE

For Paris and LE MONDE reportage on the official 1-day visit to France by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, including his meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, and External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, and his press conference remarks on the Argentine economy, see the France section of the 24 April and 1 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

INDIAN PRESIDENT LEAVES AFTER 3-DAY VISIT

PY301445 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1214 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM) -- This morning President Raul Alfonsin said farewell to Indian President Zail Singh who left the Metropolitan Airport for Ezeiza International Airport to return to his country after a 3-day visit to Argentina. Singh was also seen off, before boarding the T-02 presidential airplane, by Vice President Victor Martinez and the ministers of the executive branch except Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun. Other officials who also said farewell to the Indian president were Genaro Carrio, president of the Chamber of Deputies; and German Lopez, presidential secretary general.

YRIGOYEN ON VIDELA'S REMARKS, TRIP TO PRC

PY010033 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1543 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM) -- Ambassador-at-Large Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen said this morning that any statement made with the intention of identifying the Armed Forces with the gang of subversive and corrupt people who seized power in 1976 and who imposed state terrorism, is an affront against the constitutional Armed Forces and against the Argentine people. This was the ambassador's answer to a statement made by former De Facto President Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla, retired, who a few days ago said he was responsible for the orders given to the Army during the antisubversive war. Solari Yrigoyen added that all cases of misconduct or violation of ethical rules have been duly judged and punished.

Solari Yrigoyen talked to reporters at Ezeiza International Airport this morning upon returning from France and PRC, where he represented the Radical Civic Union.

Concerning his visit to the PRC, he said that he talked with the PRC secretary of trade on the need to promote bilateral exchange. "Thus far," he explained, "our bilateral exchange is on the order of \$638 million. This figure is largely favorable to Argentina, whose purchases are only \$3 million. The balance accounts for our sales to that country." After stressing that the PRC is a very important market because it has more than 1 billion people, Solari Yrigoyen said that there are good chances of increasing bilateral exchange since the PRC is willing to buy leather, wool, a larger volume of steel, and also manufactured products.

EFFECTS OF INSTITUTIONAL ACTS CANCELED

PY010350 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] Today the national executive branch canceled the secondary effects of the so-called institutional acts which have been issued by the military regime since 1976. Decree No 1,301 was issued with the purpose of getting rid of the obstacles that hinder national unity.

Through this decree the government authorizes the prosecutor of the national treasury to make a plea of no contest, make a deal on, drop, and/or settle any legal actions carried out by or against the government which are based on or inspired by the so-called acts of the military junta.

The government also authorized the prosecutor to adopt the same measures regarding the actions to be taken in compliance with the final sentences of the court cases No 3,122 and 3,442 brought before the lower criminal court of this capital.

This measure not only benefits former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron but also other political and union leaders that are involved in the aforementioned cases.

BRIEFS

SOVIET OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIP VISITS -- The Soviet Navy's oceanographic ship, the Akademik Krylov, docked this afternoon, 11 April, at the North Pier of the Buenos Aires metropolitan port. This is a stopover on its return trip after performing scientific activities in the Antarctic. The Akademik Krylov left the port of Leningrad on 22 September 1983 and is expected to return there on 14 May 1984. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0295 GMT 12 Apr 84 PY]

PINOCHET ADDRESSES NATION ON LABOR DAY

PY020208 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1631 GMT 1 May 84

[Address to the nation by President Augusto Pinochet from the Colburn-Machicura Hydroelectric Plant -- live]

[Excerpts] Members of the cabinet; generals; Your Excellency, the regional intendant; under secretaries of state; regional, provincial, and municipal authorities; labor leaders; businessmen and workers of the Colburn-Machicura hydroelectric plant; Chilean workers; ladies and gentlemen:

Again this year, I am here with you to commemorate such an important day. This is the proper time for all Chileans to ponder the true meaning of work as an essential activity of man. Work as a right that allows the development of man as a human being is an important source of inspiration for our government.

We also believe that the labor force is our most valuable national asset and source of prosperity. This lofty concept has been consecrated in our Constitution and in addition it has assured the right to work, the right to labor association, and voluntary union membership.

Based on these principles the government projects its activities in the labor sector by having a greater respect for work as a right rather than as a source of development.

We Chileans have experienced a great deal of labor agitation during a time in which workers were exploited for the benefit of selfish political interests and in which demagoguery prevailed in labor relations. To a great extent these vices have been overcome and no similar situations have occurred because of the development that has been achieved in this regard.

The government believes that these are significant achievements since in view of them work in the country is carried out on a solid basis, within the framework of social justice, and in keeping with labor laws. To maintain harmonious labor relations, those laws that regulate labor must be upheld. These labor regulations drastically sanction those who particularly abuse freedom, undermine it, and corrupt it by violating the rights of workers.

In keeping with high government objectives, and in keeping with what I have already announced to the country, I have instructed the labor minister to improve some aspects of the labor law and to propose the proper amendments in keeping with the laws and their relation to the different labor activities.

It is with this purpose in mind that we have invited all workers to participate in this activity. As a result of this work, I have submitted a draft bill to the honorable government junta, and we have signed Decree Law No 2,200 that was issued in 1978, as well as the law on labor courts.

Moreover, at present we are studying the proper amendments to the union organization laws and the collective association laws. All of these amendments are to effectively strengthen the position of workers by correcting situations that harmed them.

As an example, I note that among other things, we have proposed to eliminate the possibility that collective labor agreements be modified on an individual basis, thus preventing legal mechanisms from being used to the detriment of workers. [applause]

We have also proposed to eliminate the clause establishing termination of a contract without proper indemnization payments based on the need for [word indistinct] of the enterprise. Therefore, employers must pay indemnization payments in keeping with the general rules established by unjustified firing regulations. [applause]

The amendment establishing the minimum inalienable severance pay on termination of a contract is equally important. Moreover, work permits will play an important and effective role in safeguarding the workers and businessmen's interests, thus preventing long judicial cases. The aforementioned is added to the idea of increasing the legal authority of the work inspectors who pay daily visits to the labor sites with the purpose of safeguarding the full respect of the workers' rights and sanction in an exemplary manner any violation of such rights.

Finally, as I announced last 20 March, I have proposed to the honorable government junta to create special labor courts so that the workers may have access to a more expeditious and simplified justice to handle labor issues.

Gentlemen, the serious international economic difficulties have created large unemployment rates which have been a matter of permanent concern for the government. Among the various measures taken to resolve this problem, the government has created the National Employment Commission which is in charge of planning, coordinating, and supervising the programs carried out by the public sector organizations, to curb unemployment and (?echo) the interests and concerns of the private sector's employers and employees. It should also be pointed out that the economic reactivation under way will also generate numerous productive jobs which will allow the minimum employment programs and employment programs for heads of households to be cut considerably.

In fact, during the period between the month of May 1983 and February 1984 a total of 190,000 productive jobs were created, without taking into account the minimum employment program and the employment programs for heads of households which have created more than 75,000 jobs during that same period.

The goals are being fulfilled and the government has the firm intention of overcoming the problem that affects so many Chilean homes. It will not spare any efforts in the public sector to develop all the actions at hand and to encourage the private sector to gradually create the jobs it requires.

At the same time, and in order to create new job sources and grant the workers a truly effective participation in the administration of enterprises that currently belong to the state, we give great importance to the investment programs of the pension funds aimed at financing productive projects in state enterprises.

Chilean workers: The ideological disagreements within the labor organizations have been the main cause of (?discredit) and division since these disagreements distort their nature by surpressing activities and sow discord among the workers, thus preventing their [words indistinct].

This does not mean that the workers are denied their legitimate right to participate in the country's political life and exercise the rights that each and every one has in his capacity as a citizen.

The government has repeatedly insisted on the participation of labor unions and this should be their natural course. Great importance is granted to participation and dialogue so long as it contributes to duly solving the most important socioeconomic problems.

The government has been in permanent contact with the citizenry, especially with the workers and businessmen; therefore, the demands made in this regard by sectors that refuse to acknowledge this reality and are only interested in so-called political dialogue are completely groundless.

Recently I signed a supreme decree creating the socioeconomic council with the purpose of perfecting this new system for the participation of federations. [applause] At the beginning this council will act as an advisory body to the president of the nation. This council will be in charge of studying the participation of representatives of business, labor, state, and professional organizations. The names of the members of the socioeconomic council will be disclosed at the end of this ceremony. Most of them are present here today.

Fellow countrymen, On this celebration of Labor Day, a very important date in our lives, I would like to refer to the country's political future. The government, in compliance with the Constitution, is leading the country toward a full democracy. In order to achieve this, it is studying and drawing up laws that will allow the citizenry to fully exercise their political rights.

Within this process the state council and advisory commission recently submitted to the executive branch the draft bill on political parties that will be submitted for consideration to the legislative branch in the near future.

It should be pointed out that the enactment of the aforementioned law will significantly contribute to the citizenry's participation in political-partisan activities. The government will resolutely continue to take decisive steps aimed at achieving the full exercise of democracy. For this purpose it has drawn up a program that in general terms consists of the following steps:

While the legislative branch studies the draft bill on political parties, the state council and advisory commission will start to draw up the elections and electoral court draft bill that might be submitted to the legislative branch in 1985. At the same time instructions will be given to efficiently organize the elections registry service.

Moreover, debate regarding the National Congress' law should start during 1985 after being studied and proposed by the state council and the advisory commission.

But our institutionalization will not only be consolidated through the constitutional laws of a political nature. The political Constitution currently in force also provides for another important legal body. As a consequence the constitutional law that regulates the state of emergency and the general state administration law will also be submitted for consideration to the honorable government junta within the first 6 months of this year.

At the same time, and with the purpose of materializing the citizenry's participation in the economic, social, and cultural process of the country at a community and regional level, the regional and city development councils should start to study the pertinent laws during the course of this year.

Also, bearing in mind this idea of the citizenry's participation, I have analyzed together with the members of the honorable government junta the convenience of perfecting the mechanisms that will allow community participation in the drawing up of laws either through measures adopted by the legislative commissions exercising their authority or through amendments that may be necessary in the law regulating legislative procedures.

Gentlemen, these noble government purposes, which have the main objective of gradually achieving full democracy and harmonious coexistence among all Chilean citizens, are hindered when the labor unions that are infiltrated by international communism and are used as front organizations distort their purpose. They do not desire social participation but rather violence with the purpose of achieving their totalitarian objectives. Soviet communism will continue to pursue its objective of dominating the Chilean labor movement and for this purpose will continue to use the resources it has at hand. It will continue to resort to its propaganda apparatus as it has during the past 10 years, during which it has not ceased to discredit the Chilean Government by depicting it to the world as an implacable dictatorship that is an enemy of the workers and, in itself, against democracy.

Chileans are aware of our true situation and know that right from the beginning the military government has struggled and will continue to struggle for the unity of all our fellow countrymen. The workers play an important role in this transcendental task and the president of the Republic has great faith in them. The challenges are difficult but they will be nourished by our faith, effort, and sacrifice.

Today, from this rostrum, I make an ardent appeal to all Chileans to unite and overcome differences and antagonisms, to decidedly cooperate in the noble task of consolidating national coexistence and to continue striving for progress and the wellbeing of all the inhabitants of this generous land. The government is moved by a higher desire for public wellbeing, that is, to overcome all the problems it confronts, acting with an unyielding decision to achieve material progress and social justice. On this day this great national crusade should be in the mind, in the will, and in the hearts of all Chilean citizens. This great task that unites us today is a good example of what we can do by consolidating our efforts, and it renews our faith and confidence in the future of our fatherland. Long live Chile.

VIOLENCE, REPRESSION MARK MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Incidents in Santiago

PY012151 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpts] Political, labor, and professional association leaders have said that the 1 May commemoration sponsored by the National Workers Command [CNT] at O'Higgins Park was a demonstration of unity, maturity, and responsibility of workers and their families.

Early today families arrived peacefully at the crowded park in Santiago with, in the words of Democratic Alliance [AD] President Gabriel Valdes, an air of celebration marking the anniversary of the sacrifice of the Chicago martyrs.

The people brought their own banners from places such as La Granja, Pudahuel, Quinta Normal, La Victoria, Jose Maria Caro, and the Raul Silva Heriquez camp. When the sponsors of the rally asked that these banners be lowered to allow those at the other corner of the park to see the CNT leaders at the rostrum, the crowd obeyed. This revealed the maturity and responsibility with which they are facing this situation.

We have learned that several incidents took place in the vicinity of O'Higgins Park. Carabineros hurled many tear gas grenades in the northeastern sector of the park and several people were reported wounded by buckshot. The second line of the metropolitan railroad service has been suspended.

Police Use Tear Gas

PY011800 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 1 May (AFP) -- Violent incidents broke out today in Santiago during a large Labor Day rally called by union organizations opposed to the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

According to witnesses, the incidents occurred when groups of demonstrators who were converging on the site of the rally clashed with Carabineros who attempted to regulate their march. The police used tear gas grenades and the demonstrators responded by throwing stones and by chanting slogans against Pinochet.

The incidents occurred at 1330 (1730 GMT) in O'Higgins Park, the site of the rally, while leaders of the National Workers Command -- which called the rally -- were making speeches to mark Labor Day.

Dozens Arrested

PY011940 Paris AFP in Spanish 1914 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 1 May (AFP) -- According to witnesses, today in Santiago over 20 people were hurt and dozens arrested during violent incidents between demonstrators and police at the conclusion of a rally called by the National Workers Command.

The disturbances took place near O'Higgins Park where the rally was taking place when the Carabineros militarized police carried out repressive actions against groups of demonstrators who were shouting antigovernment slogans. Carabineros used rubber bullets, tear gas, truncheons, and water cannons to break up the demonstrators, some of whom set up barricades and threw rocks from street corners.

At the conclusion of the rally, which was attended by over 100,000 people, the demonstrators had problems evacuating the park because service was suspended on the metropolitan railroad service, the main way to get in and out of the park.

Wounded, Arrests in Concepcion

PY012204 Paris AFP in Spanish 2028 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Concepcion, Chile, 1 May (AFP) -- Seven demonstrators were wounded today outside the cathedral in Concepcion, 525 km south of Santiago, Chile, when the police attacked them with truncheons and tear gas at the end of a mass in the name of Saint Joseph the Worker. Another three persons were detained during the incidents, which flared up as the churchgoers were leaving the cathedral. Several of the persons chanted slogans against President Augusto Pinochet's military government.

Church sources have reported that a tear gas cannister exploded inside the church and that Bishops Jose Manuel Santos and Aljandro Goic had to calm the people in order to evacuate the church.

The Concepcion Archbishopric has announced that it will release an official statement today.

Incidents between demonstrators and Carabineros, the militarized police, also occurred today in Santiago, where eyewitness reports have indicated that approximately 20 persons were wounded and dozens were detained during a large demonstration organized by the opposition National Workers Command.

100 Wounded; 120 Detained

PY020330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0205 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 May (EFE) -- One hundred persons wounded and approximately 120 detentions is the result of incidents that occurred today in Santiago at a demonstration to commemorate 1 May that was organized by the National Workers Command [CNT] headed by Rodolfo Seguel.

According to the organizers of the demonstration, 51 wounded persons were attended to on the premises of the Chilean Human Rights Association, 30 at the main clinic of the public health services, and 20 on the site of the demonstration. The incidents began at approximately noon, when Carabineros antiriot police hit a group of people who were leaving the subway to participate in the demonstration.

During the repressive operation, Carabineros also used tear gas bombs and other antiriot materiel against the people who grouped at one end of the park just before Rodolfo Seguel's speech asking for General Augusto Pinochet's resignation, calling for the creation of "a board to seek social agreement," submitting a 21-point petition. This was why a first aid post with volunteer doctors had been installed under the rostrum.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, groups of workers chanting slogans as they left the park were repressed by the antiriot police, who even reached people who were still at the demonstration.

Dr Haydee Lopez, a member of the Medical Association, charged that "the Carabineros surrounded the rostrum where we volunteer doctors had a first aid post, and that they launched tear gas bombs and fired rubber bullets." She stated that the doctors were obliged to flee, and that these incidents will be made known to the association so that an investigation can be carried out.

Due to the disturbances in the neighborhood of Parque Station of the metropolitan railway, line No two, which runs in the direction where the demonstration was held, was out of service for 4 hours.

Hernol Flores, president of the National Association of State Workers (ANEF), called the police action "repressive and threatening."

During the course of the demonstration, which according to Radio Chilena grouped 250,000 persons, O'Higgins Park was overflowed by a police helicopter.

Renato Rodriguez, chief of the Santiago Carabineros, and two demonstrators -- Domingo Bayza, with a bullet wound in the chest, and Pedro Gonzalez, with a bullet in the leg -- are the most seriously wounded. The majority of the wounds were caused by bruising or the impact of rubber bullets.

Moreover, the presence of Army Green Beret Command patrols were noted throughout the day in all railway stations. They were heavily armed and were controlling the stations. Mass mobilization decreased during the course of the afternoon, along with the number of pedestrians in the downtown area.

During the course of the incidents in O'Higgins Park, the demonstrators made barricades of the iron fences from neighboring houses and lit rubber tires to counter the action of the police, who used water cannons to disperse groups of people.

Ten detentions were made in Valparaiso and there were nine wounded in Concepcion, where demonstrators were repressed as they were leaving the city cathedral after mass.

DEMONSTRATION HELD AT PARAGUAYAN EMBASSY

PY270358 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 26 Apr (EFE) -- The Chilean branch of Amnesty International held a demonstration today in front of the Paraguayan Embassy in Santiago. The demonstration was held in front of the embassy building located in downtown Santiago to "demand respect for human rights in Paraguay," according to one of the participants.

Approximately 50 people participated in the demonstration. The demonstrators lifted a sign which read: "Amnesty International. Torture exists in Paraguay." The demonstrators remained completely silent and police forces did not intervene. The organizers explained that today's demonstration closed a 1-month worldwide campaign to request respect for human rights in Paraguay.

FOUR EXTREMISTS PUT AT MILITARY COURT'S DISPOSAL

PY302254 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 25 Apr 84 p 23

[Text] In an official communique issued last night, the National Intelligence Center [CNI] reported that four members of the so-called "24th Congress" group of the illegal Socialist Party who committed numerous attacks have been put at the disposal of the second military court of Santiago. They are Luz Maria Soledad Sierralta Jara, Carmen Carcuro Leone, Jorge Enrique Chadwick Vergara, and Luis Alberto Guzman Robinson. All four were detained on 19 April.

Here is the CNI communique:

"Here are the police records of the detainees:

"I. Luz Maria Soledad Sierralta Jara: Identity card No 5,895,428-0 issued by the Nunoa police. Domicile: 4816, 4 North Street, Villa Universidad Catolica, Nunoa. Political names: 'Gloria' and 'Leonor.' In July 1979, she travelled to Cuba where she took a guerrilla warfare training course. She returned to Chile in August 1982. Before her arrest she lived with Luis Guzman Robinson and served as a link to the extremist group. In her domicile at 4816, 4 North Street, which was used to hide weapons, police found ammunition, explosives, subversive documents, and copies of microfilm containing classified material of the Armed Forces.

"She participated in a dynamite attack against Radio Aurora in August 1983.

"2. Carmen Carcuro Leone: Identity Card No 4,283,049-6 issued by the Santiago police. Domicile: 1282 San Diego Street, Santiago. Political name: 'Andrea.'

"She took refuge at the Mexican Embassy in 1973 and travelled to Cuba, where she lived until October 1978. She later travelled to Canada and Spain and returned to Chile in January 1979. Before her arrest, she was in charge of the group's documents and archives and she served as a link with the outlawed '24th Congress' group. She was also in charge of the post office boxes where dollars were mailed from abroad. In 1983 she participated in attacks against subways and electricity posts.

"3. Jorge Enrique Chadwick Vergara: Identity card No 3,870,127-1 issued by the Santiago police. Domicile: 212 Las Bellotas Street. Political name: 'El Gordo.'

"Between 1971 and 1973, he served as intervenor of the FENSA company. He later traveled to Mexico, where he lived until 1983. In 1976 he was in charge of the financial administration of the Chilean Socialist Party in Mexico. He was also in charge of paying the expenses of this illegal party and sending money to Chile. Recently he offered to represent the Socialist Party at the Popular Democratic Movement. In regard to the Socialist Party's financial administration, it is worthwhile to note that the party receives dollars from 11 American countries.

"Before his arrest he served as a member of the '24th Congress' executive board and was in charge of its financial administration.

"The bars at 1517 Lira Street and at 3204 Irrazaval Street of Santiago served as links and front organizations for the '24th Congress' terrorist activities.

"4. Luis Alberto Guzman Robinson: Identity card No 4,643,182 issued by the Santiago police. Domicile: 4816,4 North Street, Nunoa. Political names: 'Carlos del Solar Davila' and 'Carlos Martinez Cruzat.'

"He took refuge at the Argentine Embassy in 1973 and he later traveled to Cuba, where he lived until 1982. During his stay in Havana he took a guerrilla warfare training course. He returned to Chile clandestinely on 1 November 1982 after staying in Nicaragua for some time.

"Before his arrest he served as secretary general of the '24th Congress.' He was also a member of the group's Political Commission and Central Committee, and co-chaired the logistics and public relations departments. He participated in a dynamite attack against a Radio Aurora antenna on 9 August 1983. He robbed a newspaper distribution agency at 65 Admiral Pastene Street on 21 August 1983. He participated in a bomb attack which destroyed a stretch of approximately 10 meters of the metropolitan subway line between Los Heroes and Toesca stations on 6 September 1983."

GOVERNMENT REACTION TO MINISTER'S ASSASSINATION

Betancur To Fight Trafficking

PA011223 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0757 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpt] Bogota, 1 May (EFE) -- The Colombian Government today announced that the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla has encouraged it to continue to combat crime and injustice in all its manifestations.

A communique issued by the Council of Ministers, which met until this morning under the chairmanship of President Belisario Betancur, noted that it is saddening to see how the grandiose and encouraging future of Colombia is the object of permanent and harsh siege by minuscule groups of heartless persons seeking to sow chaos and anarchy.

The president and ministers appealed to the sensitivity of all Colombians at this hour of mourning to unite around the great purpose of peace, justice, and social progress, values for which Rodrigo Lara Bonilla offered his life, the document stated.

Lara Bonilla was assassinated Monday night by individuals who were on a motorcycle and opened fire on him with a machinegun as he was entering his home in northern Bogota.

Government Minister Alfonso Gomez made the announcement over a radio and television network and also read a decree honoring the memory of the justice minister, whose body lies in wake in the national capitol building.

Shortly before, President Betancur declared that the government accepts the challenge of the drug traffickers, announcing that he will strive steadfastly to seek their extermination.

The president requested the cooperation of the country to not allow the drug trafficking bands "to take hold of national honor and trample on it without any consideration."

The chief of state also announced special measures to repress crime and not to let the crime against the justice minister go unpunished.

State of Siege Decree Issued

PA011318 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 CMT 1 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- The country is once again under a state of siege following the wave of violence that was unleashed a few days ago and which culminated yesterday with the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

A state of siege was declared on 14 March for the Departments of Caqueta, Huila, Meta, and Cauca because of guerrilla violence in those areas.

The attacks yesterday in Bogota, Cali, and Medellin, and in towns of Huila, Cauca, Santander, Antioquia, and the Guaviare police outpost, and finally the attack on the justice minister have moved the government to once again impose the state of siege throughout the country.

At a special cabinet meeting in Narino Palace, and with the agreement of the State Council, the government justified the state of siege with the following decree:

Armed groups have been operating in various parts of the country. These armed groups have attacked the constitutional regime through regrettable actions against public order, thus creating alarm among the citizens.

To check this grave situation, especially in the Departments of Caqueta, Huila, Meta, and Cauca, the government announces that public order has been disturbed in these departments and through Decree 615 of 14 March, declares them to be in a state of siege.

The government has used the means that ordinary law provides to fulfill its constitutional obligations. However, this has not been sufficient to return to a normal situation.

Following the issuance of Decree 615, armed groups have attacked various towns. These attacks includes those on (Acebel), Huila Department; Corinto, Cauca Department; Sucre and Jordan, Santander Department; Giraldo, Antioquia Department; and Miraflores, Guaviare police outpost.

Because of the continuous actions by antisocial groups involved in drug trafficking, the normal functioning of institutions is being gravely affected. This is a criminal challenge to Colombian society and a threat to the citizens' security, tranquillity, and public health, and to the national economy.

On this day, there were terrorist activities in the cities of Medellin, Cali, and Bogota, and many public transportation vehicles were destroyed. Yesterday evening, Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla was murdered.

In general, acts of violence provoked by the circumstances already mentioned have resulted in deplorable casualties among the military and police forces as well as many victims among the civilian population.

In view of this situation, it is necessary to adopt emergency measures listed in Article 121 of the political Constitution. It is decreed:

Article 1. It is declared that public order has been disturbed and that all the territory of the Republic is in a state of siege.

Article 2. This decree goes into effect the moment it is announced. Let this be published and obeyed.

Killer Under Strict Watch

PA011435 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- One of the men who murdered Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla is currently at the San Pedro Claver Clinic, under strict surveillance and receiving all the medical attention necessary to save his life. He was first identified as Byron Velasquez Arenas, but it was later revealed that he is Manuel Avila Castro, 25 years old. He suffered two bullet wounds: one in the stomach and another in his left arm.

Velasquez Arenas, or Avila Castro, is in the intensive care unit under strict surveillance by the police and secret corps. Prior to surgery, the wounded man told government officials that he had been hired with his partner in Medellin, that he had never been in Bogota, and that he had received an offer of 2 million pesos as a reward for the murder. He likewise said he was instructed to carry out the murder, but was not told that his victim would be Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

His partner died instantly when the (?team) comprising the minister's escort repelled the attack. The San Pedro Claver Clinic, where the killer is receiving medical attention, is completely surrounded by (?members) of the police, DAS [Administrative Department of Security], and F-2. A special watch is being kept at key places of [words indistinct]. In addition, no official information has been given by the doctors, as a security measure. However, both the doctors and government officials trust that Byron Velasquez Arenas, or Manuel Avila Castro, will be able to respond in a few hours to the questions of the secret state corps officials who are in charge of the investigation.

Betancur Addresses Nation

PA011605 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1210 GMT 1 May 84

[Speech by Colombian President Belisario Betancur on 1 May 1984; place not given; in progress -- recorded]

[Text] ...and in a personal way the president of the Republic expresses, like all people of good will, his sadness over the death of Justice Minister Dr Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, a victim of the fulfillment of duty and of the struggle he was waging. The profound grief that overpowers us, and the national solidarity with his mother, his wife, his children, all his relatives, and Dr Lara Bonilla's countrymen should serve as a lesson to all of us, especially those of us who exercise authority, of how bitter and difficult the road to peace and justice is, and of the dangers that loom over a people when their moral reserves are weakened.

Peace, fellow citizens, is a multifaceted ideal and, therefore, an elusive one. We have been intent on achieving peace in the political arena with such an irregular degree of success that not even the calmness with which the state of siege was decreed in only four departments affected by intolerable actions -- by those up in arms and in face of the evident presence of the large centers of operations of the drug traffickers -- elicited the behavior that both the government and the community had expected.

On the contrary, there has been an escalation of violence that, with good reason, has alarmed people of good will. But at the same time, despite adverse conditions -- both from the standpoint of material resources at our disposal and our problems with penal procedures -- we unleashed a relentless campaign against those criminals who create terror in the cities, rural areas, and villages.

Exactly 1 month ago, I expressed through the media my anguish in the face of this situation when, in speaking about a first ray of hope in the struggle for peace [passage indistinct] recover the national dignity that has been wrested from us by drug traffickers demanding from us [words indistinct] and making our youths ill, perverting them with drugs. This is the big task lying ahead of us: Denouncing them every day, informing them that they cannot go on soiling our society, (?the one which) they themselves want to address at a great national forum; enough. [sentence as heard].

On that same occasion I said: We must stop joking as if the subject were unimportant, about the things that are happening (?in the money empires).

Drugs are the most serious problem that Colombia has had in its history. They have a sinister effect on our crisis, our health, and our moral values, [words indistinct] dramatically (?all that had to do with) our poverty, our unemployment, the increasing distance from our (?physical) and moral values, from the basic values. In other words, it is a matter of rescuing a society that (?on many occasions) has made those people feel alienated, strange, almost nonexistent.

Thus, the new indefatigable, sleepless, and dauntless struggle for moral peace should be a refined operation.

Every councilman would say: A municipality controlled by drugs could very well have a situation equivalent to three, four, or five guerrilla fronts in the distant mountains. Each honest family that engages in drug trafficking is not acting like those who seize a rifle on behalf of either specific or vague political ideals, but is merely engaging in the army of new anarchists created by the demolishing chimera of easy money that permits opulent or extravagant living.

Well, fellow countrymen: Today we face an unavoidable reality. An exemplary Colombian, a good man, has paid with his life for his love for his homeland, for justice, and for the simple but sometimes forgotten fulfillment of one's duty to integrity; making one fully aware of virtue, the sense of values that make both human beings and nations respectable, even going beyond the most elementary sense of personal security and survival.

The state cannot take revenge -- least of all in connection with the sacrifice of someone who represented it with honor and paid homage to justice, this ideal which today has penetrated our minds and hearts, hopefully not just for a moment or a few days, but as a reality, as a need whose presence has been engraved with blood in Colombia's history, in the history of each of our lives.

For this and many other reasons, we continue to look for peace. We will seek it along various paths, because as I said earlier, it (?seems elusive), and we cannot remain absorbed with a single path. We will adopt the extraordinary measures required without hesitation, with prudent firmness. Those accepting our pacification efforts in good faith, in goodwill, and with sincerity have nothing to fear, for our goal has not changed: It continues to be peace. However, for the foolish, the recalcitrant ones, and the declared public enemies, there will not be any consideration other than the implementation of the law. Our state will never permit the destruction of society. We act under the sign of respect for human rights. The community and the state representing it can provide protection without engaging in excesses -- but above all, we will wage a war against the drug traffickers. The Colombian Government accepts their challenge.

In making this declaration, we know that we can count on the support of decent Colombians, who are the overwhelming majority. We will also count on the Congress and on the political parties, which are so lucid, so highly representative of what specifically patriotism is. We will count on the honesty, valor, and sense of law and justice of Colombian judges, so that it is no longer said unduly and unjustly that they have not met the commitment they made to the citizens' security. In short, we will initiate a great national mobilization. No Colombian man, woman, child, or adult, whether rich or poor, can remain silent because of vested interest or fear. Their personal security, their future, the future of this homeland -- sometimes bitter but always beloved -- demand their participation in this new task for independence.

Let us recover the national dignity that the drug traffickers have seized. No desire for vengeance looms over the new tomb of patriot Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. The fistful of Colombian soil that we will sadly throw over his inert body will express a great national sorrow, a great personal sorrow, but above all, it will express pride and will speak of the hope of this homeland, which he loved and honored like the great heroes in whose pantheon he already belongs, because he made the supreme sacrifice of offering his life. Let us all be worthy of the memory of Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. Good day.

Details of Minister's Death

PA011626 Paris AFP in Spanish 1418 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpts] Bogota, 1 May (AFP) -- Colombians awakened today to a bugle's funeral notes in mourning for the assassination of Justice Minister, Liberal Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, which prompted the government of President Belisario Betancur to decree a state of siege.

Lara Bonilla, a fiery 40-year-old Liberal senator from the southeastern province of Huila, was gunned down last night in northern Bogota by two individuals who apparently were paid by the drug trafficking mafia. The victim had declared war on the mafia since December 1983.

Lara Bonilla's assassination is perhaps the most heinous committed in this country of 28 million people in the past decade, and has been compared to that perpetrated against U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

The victim received 11 bullet wounds, one in the thorax and two in the head, which were mortal and which made the efforts of the doctors at the Shaio Clinic, where he was taken by his bodyguard, useless.

According to the local newspaper EL TIEMPO today, the criminal, Byron Velasquez Arenas, 20, was hired in the city of Medellin for 2 million pesos, some \$21,000. He staged the attack to the letter and only failed in attempting to escape when Lara's "executor" was gunned down.

A stolen vehicle intercepted Lara in his vehicle, which came to a sudden stop. The killers took advantage of this to shoot the minister. However, in making an escape on motorcycle on a broad avenue in northern Bogota, they were hit by bullets fired by security detectives.

A shoot-out between police and the attackers ensued. The culprit, who had opened fire with a machinegun, was killed, while Velasquez Arenas, who was driving the motorcycle, was arrested with a bullet wound in one of his arms. He was wearing a protective bullet-proof vest.

The assassination of Lara Bonilla has sparked immediate rejection by Colombians. For example, political leaders have condemned it and appealed for national solidarity with the Betancur government to wage a war against the traffickers of marijuana and cocaine.

Lara's confrontation with the drug trafficking mafia arose as a result of a charge brought against him before the house of deputies by Liberal congressman for Antioquia Province, Jairo Ortega, who charged that the minister had received money from the mafia.

The former minister then confronted well-known drug traffickers, such as Pablo Escobar, Ortega's alternate in the house of representatives, confessed trafficker Carlos Ledher Rivas, Evaristo Porras, and others, while he became a staunch defender of an extradition treaty with the United States.

Lara himself denounced the first assassination plan in January in the city of Medellin, when the plot was unveiled by the police who captured a North American who had arrived in the country to kill him. The individual was deported.

"They will not stop me and will not silence me," the minister said, demanding the solidarity of Colombians to defend youth.

Today, however, in the opinion of political leaders "he was left alone in his struggle."

The captured criminal is recovering from his wounds in a clinic in the capital, where he is under strict police surveillance before being subjected to intense interrogation today by the investigation organizations.

State of Siege Decrees

PA020243 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 May 84

[Decrees Nos 1039, 1040, and 1041 issued by the Colombian Government; date and place not given; read by Deputy Government Minister Victor Ricardo -- live or recorded]

[Text] Decree 1039 -- The President of the Republic, in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by Article 121 of the Constitution, and to complement Decree 1038 of 1 May 1984, decrees:

Article 1. As long as the state of siege is in effect throughout the territory of the Republic, the governors will be authorized to implement the following measures:

- A. Regulate and control land and river transportation in their respective jurisdictions.
- B. Restrict and supervise the movement of persons in streets and public places.
- C. Decree a curfew.
- D. Restrict or prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages in liquor dispensing establishments and public places.

Article 2. The violators of the measures that are adopted in accordance with this decree will be punished by the corresponding governors with a fine of 60,000 pesos if it is a commercial establishment and with a 60-day prison term or a fine of 1,000 pesos per day for each day this term is reduced in the case of private individuals.

Article 3. The governors will act in compliance with a written and notarized resolution that will be issued after the prosecution has presented its case and submitted the evidence that it has obtained during the questioning session that took place in the governor's offices. The governor's decisions may be appealed.

Article 4. The norms that obstruct the implementation of the present decree are hereby temporarily suspended in accordance with Article 121 of the Constitution of the Republic.

Article 5. This decree is effective immediately. To be released and published.

Decree 1040 -- The President of the Republic, in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by Article 121 of the Constitution, and to complement Decree 1038 of 1 May 1984, decrees:

Article 1. For the duration of the public unrest and the state of siege throughout the territory of the Republic, all political gatherings, public demonstrations, student or worker rallies, and public events that may give rise to situations that might affect or disrupt the normal development of activities are hereby prohibited, except when they have received due authorization by the corresponding governors.

Article 2. For the governor to issue the due authorizations mentioned in Article 1 of this decree, the interested party or the organizers of the event must submit a written request 7 days prior to the gathering, stating the nature of the gathering, demonstration, or rally and the place, date, and time at which it will take place.

Article 3. Those written requests that meet the requirements stated in the above article will be processed and returned not less than 48 hours before the scheduled time of the gathering. The authority processing the request will be authorized to issue times and dates different from those requested by the organizers in the interest of maintaining public order.

Article 4. The governors' offices will maintain a log containing the requests, the date, and the time they were submitted, the names of the requesting parties, and the acceptance or rejection of the requests.

Article 5. It is hereby prohibited to authorize the staging of more than one demonstration at the same time in the same municipality.

Article 6. For no reason will public gatherings be allowed before 0600 or after 1800. Those that take place within closed premises will end before 2200 unless a curfew is in effect.

Article 7. Those gatherings included in the present decree will only be able to take place on the date, time, and place that was authorized.

Article 8. Those parties that conduct activities to hold gatherings, demonstrations, rallies, or public events that have not been duly authorized or that alter the date, time, or place of the gathering without the prior consent of the pertinent authorities will pay a fine of from 100,000 to 500,000 pesos to the National Treasury or, alternatively, serve 1 day in prison for every 10,000 pesos that the fine is reduced. The major of the corresponding municipality will determine the fine in accordance with Article 228 of Decree No 1355 of 1970.

These punishments will be open to appeal before the corresponding governor. An appeal must be processed within 2 days after it is submitted in the offices of the highest authority.

Article 9. In order to comply with Article 309 of the Criminal Code, all acts of aggression or participation in acts of aggression, obstructions of access to the place of the gathering, attacks on vehicles, and verbal, broadcast, written, or published provocations to impede the free development of the gathering, and other similar actions will be considered actions to impede or disturb a legal gathering.

Article 10. Public speakers who incite the public to violence, to disobey the authorities, or to commit crimes will be arrested and held incommunicado for a 48-hour period, and will be subject to the corresponding legal punishment. The authorities will proceed to disband the gathering.

Article 11. The governors will not be authorized to delegate the capacities conferred upon them by virtue of this decree.

Article 12. This decree is effective immediately and suspends all legal norms that contravene its dispositions.

Decree 1041 -- The President of the Republic, in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by Article 121 of the Constitution, and to complement Decree 1038 of 1 May 1984, decrees:

Article 1. The following persons will be in violation of the above-mentioned decrees and will be subject to detention without bail for up to 1 year without the right to legal proceedings:

A. Those who without justification carry or use masks, hoods, stockings, or head coverings, or any other instrument to conceal or disguise their true identity.

B. Those who buy or sell, carry, or store without justification gasoline, explosives, or chemicals such as acetone, ether, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, thinners, light-weight carbonate [carbonatos livianos], and other similar products used to manufacture products that are either psychologically or physically addictive.

Article 2. The punishment that follows the violation of Section A of the previous article will be applied by the mayors and police inspectors. The punishment following the violation of Section B will be applied by the corresponding governors. In both cases the procedures stipulated in Article 228 of Decree 1355 of 1970 will be used.

Paragraph [no letter or number head]: There will be no right to appeal the decision.

Article 3. All legal norms that contravene this decree are hereby suspended in accordance with Article 121 of the Constitution.

Article 4. The present decree is effective immediately.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON MEDIA

PA011754 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1403 GMT 1 May 84

[Text of communique issued by the Communications Ministry -- date and place not given]

[Text] The Communications Ministry is deeply concerned over the refusal of some media to observe legal dispositions regulating the way in which news reports should be given. The media are often attracted by getting a scoop, many times on crimes, whose perpetrators on occasions place journalists on the verge of concealment or complicity.

In recent days we have observed with perplexity the way in which subversive actions are reported, and [words indistinct] of individuals that express themselves outside the law.

The national government has respected freedom of opinion, press, and information within the democratic concept, and will continue to do so, but with responsibility. We will not hesitate in applying the full weight of the law in case of violations of rental contracts for television space and radio frequencies by contractors who do not show real conscientiousness and efficiency in fulfilling their main mission which, above all, should be to serve our society and collaborate in the search for peace.

The media -- more than any other group -- should preserve and foster accord and social harmony in the community they serve, and prevent the use of these channels to report provoking situations that could alter public order.

BRIEFS

NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR -- Yoshio Fujimoto has been appointed the new Japanese ambassador to Colombia. Fujimoto, who has served in various diplomatic posts in several countries, such as Austria, Turkey, India, Australia, the FRG, and the United Kingdom, presented his credentials at Narino Palace a few days ago. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Apr 84 p 3 C PA]

LABOR DAY RALLY ENDS PEACEFULLY IN MONTEVIDEO

PY012146 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2105 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpt] The 1 May rally being held at the northern sector of the congress building esplanade is coming to an end. This is our mobile unit 4 reporting:

[Begin relay] The massive 1 May rally has ended with an appeal for national accord launched through a 2-hour proclamation. According to information released by the labor leaders who presided over the rally, some 250,000 persons attended this afternoon's demonstration, while international news agencies reported the presence of 450,000 persons. The proclamation, which was read by Uruguayan leaders belonging to the so-called Interunion Workers Plenum [PIT], referred to the local situation and to the sociopolitical situation of workers in Chile, Paraguay, Grenada, [words indistinct] and Nicaragua. [end relay]

ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL PARTIES RESUME DIALOGUE

PY012206 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2130 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpt] The Armed Forces and the political parties have resumed talks aimed at institutionalizing the country. In separate meetings, the commanders in chief met today with Colorado Party, Civic Union, and Blanco Party leaders. The commanders informed the politicians of the guidelines of the political plan designed by the Armed Forces. The meetings were held in the morning and in the afternoon at the Army General Command headquarters. The Colorado Party was represented by Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, secretary general of the Colorado Party Executive Committee, and by [words indistinct] Batlle. The Civic Union was represented by Humberto Ciganda, Julio Daverede, and Juan Vicente Chiarino, who met with the military officers early in the afternoon. The Blanco Party was represented by professor Juan Piven Devoto, and by Dr Gonzalo Aguirre, who ended their meeting with the commanders in chief a few minutes ago.

Party Leaders React to Plan

PY020211 [Editorial Report] Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 2 May carried a report covering the reaction of local party leaders to the political plan proposed to them by the Armed Forces on 1 May, when the commanders in chief met with party leaders and thus resumed the political dialogue.

In an interview granted to Radio Carve, Blanco Party leader Gonzalo Aguirre explained that the Army commander in chief called professor Juan Pivel Devoto, the party president, to "ask him to go to the Army command headquarters to receive a document drawn up by the Armed Forces." Aguirre also said that the contents of the document "is exactly the opposite of what the parties demand." After giving more details of the Armed Forces document, Aguirre said: "I do not know what the Blanco Party will do now. I believe that we should not waste time by asking the party executive board to consider this sort of things." He concluded the interview by saying that "if Blanco Party leaders meet, I don't think it will take them more than 10 minutes to agree on an answer, and the answer will be that we simply demand the full enforcement of the 1967 Constitution. That's all."

In turn, a Colorado Party leader [Jorge] Luis Batlle, who was also interviewed by Radio Carve, confirmed that he has received the Armed Forces document intended to provide the basis for resuming the dialogue. He said that the guidelines outlined in the document "will facilitate the resumption of talks," and that any agreement "will be confirmed by a constituent assembly;" in his opinion, this process will provide "guarantees for the people."

Finally, Civic Union leader Julio Daverede also said in an interview that representatives of his party have met with the Armed Forces commanders in chief. Daverede points out that in a "very cordial meeting" the commanders put forth their position, and that party leaders agreed "not to reveal details of the Armed Forces political plan." He remarked that the Armed Forces are trying to resume the dialogue, and that they confirmed that "there will be elections on 25 November."

COLORADO PARTY LEADER REGRETS RETURN OF VIOLENCE

PY281610 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Now that we must seek harmony, violence has been dangerously reestablished in our country. This statement was made by Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti, secretary general of the Colorado Party. Sanguinetti granted an exclusive interview to Radio Carve giving a thorough analysis of the situation in the country. Referring to the current political situation, he stated:

[Begin Sanguinetti recording] The country has been living until this moment in a situation of expectations, expectations on how the elections would be held. Now a major concern has been added to this expectation: the return of violence. Violence has returned to Uruguay today.

Eleven years after a coup d'etat that took place to overcome violence, we suddenly encounter violence again. The rash of attacks against the director of the CINCO DIAS newspaper and the bombs launched against its advertisers are worrying events. Luckily no one died, but the bombs went off and shots were fired. We can add to all this the measures against the press. Newspapers are closed, weeklies of all leanings closed, from an old Colorado Party journal of Salto to the weekly BUSQUEDA, which I would say is a weekly of conservative leanings of an intellectual and democratic nature.

In the political sector we can see the closing of newspapers and weeklies, in addition to the attacks with bombs, bullets, and coercion. We can also see a person who dies in a military garrison and Dr Roslik in San Javier.

What we do not see is the position of the authorities, causing concern among the citizens because they have not acted accordingly. It is very serious to say that a person died during an interrogation. It is also very serious not to say immediately whether an investigation has been ordered, on whether the responsible authorities have been preventively separated from that establishment. It is very serious that the people are not informed about the clear results of the second autopsy that has been mentioned.

All this implies the return of violence amongst us. We have a person dead in a military garrison, we have bombs, attacks, the closing of newspapers and weeklies. All this contributes to the context of the real situation we are experiencing at this moment.
[end recording]

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR CITED ON U.S. CRITICISM

FL301740 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1705 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Carlos Nunez Tellez, the new Nicaraguan ambassador to Mexico, has said that, to draw attention from the mining of Nicaraguan ports, the United States armed and trained 12,000 counterrevolutionaries to invade Nicaragua. Speaking before congressmen from all the national political parties, Nunez Tellez stated that Reagan wants to make Nicaragua pay for the errors of his own U.S. Government to weaken world protest over the aggression committed against that Central American nation. He said that it is not coincidental that the counterrevolutionary attacks are taking place at this moment in which world public opinion is angrily protesting over the armed aggression against a nation that is struggling to preserve its liberty and to lead its people toward a better life.

Referring to the position that Mexico has adopted in this conflict, he stated that Mexico has a luminous point on the American Continent because Mexico has shown constant concern for Latin American unity and integrity and for the convulsive situation affecting Central America.

Nunez Tellez expressed his regret over the call that certain countries of the region made for the suspension of the Contadora Group meeting. This was another attempt to sacrifice Nicaragua, because the Contadora Group is doing everything it can to avoid a possible war, he concluded.

ARMED GROUP ATTACKS GUATEMALAN REFUGEE CAMP

PA012048 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 1 May (AFP) -- The official news agency NOTIMEX has announced in Mexico that last night an armed group killed eight Guatemalan refugees and wounded six others when it machinegunned and threw grenades into one of the camps located in Chiapas State, Mexico, near the Guatemalan border. The incident occurred in Camp El Chupadero, near the city of Comitán, while the refugees were dining. When the armed group arrived, it began machinegunning and throwing grenades at the refugees without any provocation. Eyewitnesses and International Red Cross nurses informed NOTIMEX about the incident.

As of this morning, neither the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees nor the Christian Commission for Aid to Refugees [Comision Cristiana de Ayuda a los Refugiados] had been able to establish the identity of the attackers or their motives.

NAVY SAYS SOVIET SCIENTIFIC MISSION SUSPENDED

FL011930 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1658 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Acapulco (Mexico), 1 May (NOTIMEX) -- The General Staff of the Mexican Navy today announced, without any details, that the scientific mission the Soviet ship Vulcanolog was to have undertaken here has been suspended. The communique that was received by Municipal President Argudin Alcaraz and the head of the port facility, Antonio Piza Soberanis, indicated that the Soviet Embassy in Mexico had reported that the Soviet ship would not arrive in Mexican waters as planned.

The 3,000-ton ship will make a trip around the world, calling at the most important ports. A group of Mexican scientists from the National University, from the Technological Institute of Monterrey, and two biologists from the Secretariats of the Navy and National Defense will be traveling aboard the ship.

OPPOSITION ALLEGES PRD ATTACKS ON MEMBERS

PA012138 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Apr 84 p 1 A

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Excerpt] The official violence against the opponents of the regime, which started last Saturday with the attack on LA PRENSA columnist Guillermo Sanchez Borbon, continued on Sunday with new attacks.

In the same vein, and as part of a political atmosphere that is starting to take on alarming features, groups from the official PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] attacked a caravan of vehicles of the MOLIRENA [Nationalist Republican Democratic Movement]. As a result, two people were injured. Meanwhile, Humberto Lopez Tirone, the director of DIGEDECOP [General Directorate of Community Development], warned -- from a traffic island in the street in front of the LA PRENSA building -- that "heads will roll" after the 6 May elections.

The warning from Lopez Tirone, a government official who is prevented from taking part in political acts under the Electoral Law, was made during a PRD caravan.

These incidents took place yesterday, Sunday, as part of many other acts of vandalism that according to reports received by the editor have been directed at people and property directly or indirectly linked to the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO).

In an interview with our editor Migdalia Fuentes, Panamanian President Jorge Illueca said that the attack on newsman Sanchez Borbon does not favor the peace and order "that my government is determined to maintain during the electoral process. This is a censurable and serious incident that is subject to punishment. [quotation marks as published]

President Illueca said: Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari has been instructed to investigate the incidents and to take strong measures through his ministry's officials to ensure that violence will not prevail in the country.

The Panamanian president said: "To me, the newsman's right to freedom of speech is sacred, and respect for this right is part of our democratic regime.

ARIAS WINDS UP CAMPAIGN, PREDICTS VICTORY

PA302118 Paris AFP in Spanish 1456 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Chorrera, Panama, 30 Apr (AFP) -- Promising insistently that he "will stop the thieves and rogues who have governed the country in the last 16 years," the octogenarian conservative leader Arnulfo Arias wound up here his electoral campaign in the countryside.

La Chorrera's Martin Feuillet Square was invaded by thousands of followers of the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), which is seeking to install Arias -- who was overthrown by General Omar Torrijos in 1968 -- in the Palace of the Herons for the fourth time.

The 83-year-old Arias spoke for 12 minutes to his followers. His speech was full of nostalgia and recollections of 4 decades ago, drawing cheers from hundreds of demonstrators who either equaled or surpassed the speaker in age.

This is the fifth time Arias is asking Panamanians to vote for him in a presidential election, having won three times and having been ousted from office that many times as well.

In his sluggish speaking manner, the conservative leader predicted in La Chorrera, 30 km west of the capital, that he will again win in the 6 May elections. "This will be an easy victory because it will be against thieves and rouges," said Arias amid cheers from the crowd.

Wearing dark clothes and large glasses to hide the problem with his left eye, the aging politician sent murmurs through Martin Feuillet Square when he aimed his attacks at the official National Democratic Union (UNADE), headed by Torrijism and its candidate, Nicolas Ardito Barletta. In Arias' opinion, Panamanians will make the military and its Torrijist candidate pay at the polls "for the misgovernment" they have conducted since his overthrow on 11 October 1968. The ADO candidate has repeatedly accused the Torrijist rulers and leaders of being "corrupt," but he promised here that any eventual government by him "will be to help everybody, and we are going to show a certain clemency and compassion to those rouges."

This time Arias did not directly assail the National Defense Forces -- the country's only armed institution, to which he has continually issued the warning that if he wins he will make them return to their garrisons -- but did say insistently that "we must watch over ADO's victory in view of a possible fraud by the official sector."

DEFENSE FORCES WARN AGAINST ELECTION EXCESSES

PA301528 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Apr 84 p A-1

["Text" of communique issued by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of the Panamanian National Defense Forces General Staff, in Panama City, on 29 April]

[Text] On reaching the final week of the current electoral process for civically electing the future president of the Republic and the members of the legislative body, we wish to state the following:

1. Although it has been observed that the political campaign in this country has been conducted quite respectfully, there are certain individuals or groups of various persuasions who want to tarnish the current electoral process with defiant or provocative attitudes.
2. The Defense Forces will not tolerate excesses of any kind -- regardless of which sector they originate from, be they allied to the current civilian administration or the opposition -- which result from extreme or desperate stands. Least of all tolerated will be those excesses whose purpose is to undermine the public order.
3. All members of our Forces have orders to behave neutrally, courteously, and respectfully but with all the power rightfully bestowed on us by both the Constitution and the law to check any isolated or group attempt to alter peace.
4. As the guiding body of the present civic debate, we will support the Electoral Tribunal and we urge the leaders of the political parties of every persuasion to demonstrate maturity, discipline, and civic conduct to prevent the implementation of severe measures which we do not wish to adopt, but which we will not forego if needed to achieve the higher goal of protecting the lives, property, and security of our country's inhabitants.

Asked To Display Forbearance

PA012211 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] The National Defense Forces command has reiterated to its officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops the need to maintain, during these critical and sensitive times, a greater degree of forbearance to help counterbalance the provocations that may arise at the various political events to be held in the next few days. In today's order of the day it was specified that in view of the tension that will be experienced during the final days before the presidential elections, it is necessary for the members of the National Defense Forces to maintain the highest degree of forbearance, while at the same time fulfilling their mission of protecting order and social peace.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the National Defense Forces, said that the final instructions to guarantee the fulfillment of the already issued orders will be given to the commanders of the various military zones during a 72-hour work session that will begin today at the auditorium of the National Defense Forces recreation center.

Gen Noriega also said that today he visited the home of presidential candidate Carlos Ivan Zuniga to apologize for the incident that occurred between a member of the Zuniga family and a National Defense Forces agent on Sunday in Fort Amador. Gen Noriega added that the National Defense Forces is doing its best to prevent a repetition of this type of incident and has urged its noncommissioned officers and troops to disregard provocations and to be sure to stay within bounds if they are forced to react to provocations.

Gen Noriega also reported that the six members of the Basque guerrilla organization ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] will be leaving Panama today and going to Cuba.

ETA MEMBERS REPORTEDLY DEPART FOR CUBA

PA012348 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2148 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 1 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The seven [as received] members of the terrorist organization ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] who were granted temporary refuge in Panama following their deportation from France in mid-January this afternoon left for Cuba, a source at Omar Torrijos Airport told ACAN-EFE.

The seven ETA members arrived at the airport 1 hour before the plane's departure. They left aboard Cubana de Aviacion's regular flight No 467.

Jose Antonio Mugica, Jose Maria Larrechea Goni, Jose Miguel Arruagaeta Seanemeterio, Jose Ansola Larranaga, Carlos Ibarguren Aguirre, and Jesus Abrisketa Korta had been here since January when they were deported by France and had been waiting for other countries to grant them permanent asylum.

C.A., CONTADORA FOREIGN MINISTERS END PANAMA MEETING

Communique Issued

PA011855 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The sixth joint meeting of the Contadora Group foreign ministers and their Central American colleagues ended this morning. At the conclusion of the meetings, the officials released a 7-page communique approving the results of the three commissions that analyzed political affairs, security, and socioeconomic affairs.

In the political field, the foreign ministers approved by consensus national reconciliation, respect for human rights, the holding of direct and democratic elections, and detente in the region. It was also agreed to respect the inviolability of life and the freedom and security of persons seeking amnesty.

On security, the countries of the area were asked to take on more responsibility. Proscribing the establishment of foreign military bases and any other form of military intervention was also called for. It was also approved by consensus that the countries should not support, through the use of their territory, the guerrillas or any other forces threatening the peace and security of the neighboring countries by destabilization, sabotage and terrorism. There was broad agreement on the withdrawal of foreign advisers. The commission thoroughly analyzed the problem of the arms buildup in the region and agreed to conduct an inventory to determine each nation's degree of war preparedness.

On economic and social affairs, specific recommendations were made on integration, interzonal trade, and technical cooperation on investments, financing, labor and health.

The ministers also examined the situation of the refugees, on which the countries made various suggestions that will be studied to work out a joint policy.

The ministers agreed to study the documents submitted by the commission and to determine priorities to be submitted to the respective governments for their consideration. It was proposed that when this process is completed, the technical groups make proposals, recommendations, and formulas for consensus and establish the appropriate mechanism for their implementation. The ministers said that the progress achieved is nevertheless in contrast with the increase in violence, the military escalation, the arms buildup, and the foreign military presence in the area, the most recent manifestations of which pose a serious threat for peace and cause justified alarm in the international community.

Finally, the Contadora Group and the Central American foreign ministers issued a resolution addressed to the Colombian president and people expressing their deep sorrow at the murder of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.

Paz Barnica Scores Nicaragua

PA012019 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1823 GMT 1 May 84

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Panama City, 1 May (DPA) -- Honduras today accused Nicaragua of blocking the Contadora Group.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica told DPA: "Generally speaking, the meeting we concluded today was positive, although the attitude of Nicaragua, as presented by its foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto, is regrettable. D'Escoto told the other eight foreign ministers that Nicaragua does not accept the idea of disarming itself and that it does not accept either any interference in its process of democratization, respect for human rights, and national reconciliation.

Paz Barnica added that Nicaragua "does not accept either a verification of arms in that country.

In other words, Paz Barnica said, Nicaragua torpedoed the most important points of the meeting, since Foreign Minister D'Escoto openly said that Nicaragua will continue arming itself because it is defending itself from the United States.

Paz Barnica explained: "The peace treaty to be signed, if it is signed, will be the responsibility of Central America. The Contadora Group has a conciliatory role and this is the only way in which it cooperates.

Paz Barnica added: The Central American countries have the capability of preparing our own treaties and the Contadora Group will have an advisory role."

D'Escoto Criticizes Document

PA010411 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today asserted that the Central American situation is extremely serious and that it has been aggravated by the hostility and complicity of El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica with the U.S. interventionist policy. D'Escoto described as a desperate step the document presented last week by Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras. This document is in line with the Reagan administration's warmongering policy. He also charged that U.S. policy has been using these three countries to hamper the progress of the peace process.

The Contadora Group had already asked the Central American countries to present their peace proposals, the Nicaraguan foreign minister recalled, adding that now that a joint effort is being made, these countries have unexpectedly produced a document unrelated to the deliberations currently under way. D'Escoto indicated that what increases the likelihood of a general war in the region -- as the United States is planning -- is these three countries' complicity with the big power that is waging war against Nicaragua, particularly Honduras. Both Costa Rica's and El Salvador's participation has been increasing all the time.

As for Guatemala's refusal to sign the document, D'Escoto asserted that this stance helps the Contadora Group's peace efforts and the objectives proposed to achieve peace in the region.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ COMMENTS ON NICARAGUAN 'AGGRESSION'

PA012054 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1930 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The Security Council held a special meeting today at the Foreign Affairs Ministry to continue the analysis of incident that occurred last Sunday on the northern border.

The Security Council meeting was attended by Second Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, Justice Minister Hugo Alfonso Munoz, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano, Interior Minister Alfonso Carro, and Deputy Foreign Minister Jorge Urbina. They discussed the note to be sent to Nicaragua concerning the latest aggression against Costa Rica.

Here is an exclusive statement by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez explaining the terms of the note concerning the aggression against Costa Rica by the Sandinist government of Managua. Here is the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] The Security Council again discussed the attack carried out by the Sandinists against our territory. During the discussion, I said that last night, according to the resolution adopted by the Security Council last Wednesday, I had asked the Contadora Group to intervene in the situation created by the Nicaraguan attack against our territory. The Contadora foreign ministers told me last night that they planned to discuss the matter, and the Nicaraguan foreign minister, at the same meeting after I explained the Costa Rican request, said that Nicaragua would agree to the Contadora Group sending observers to verify the situation of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border.

Informed of this situation, the other members of the Security Council decided first to send the protest note to the Nicaraguan Government in terms appropriate to the type of attack that was perpetrated. Second, every effort will be made to resolve the matter within the Contadora Group, that is, the Contadora Group foreign ministers will be asked to appoint a commission composed of the military attaches of the four countries to verify in Costa Rica what happened and bear witness before the evidence disappears. Third, the Contadora Group foreign ministers, who had accepted under the proposed plan of activities to pay a visit to Costa Rica, will make this visit as soon as possible within the next few days. Fourth, it was agreed to call a meeting of the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of all OAS member-states to brief them on all the facts of the attack launched against Costa Rica. Finally, the council approved the measures that have already been implemented by the public force for the defense of our land.

[Unidentified reporter] When will this meeting with the ambassadors be held?

[Gutierrez] I believe that the earliest we can hold it is on Thursday. We have to advise all of them, and I will do so tomorrow, and I believe that the meeting can be held Thursday morning or early afternoon. [end recording]

You have heard Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez telling us how Costa Rica will proceed in response to the grave aggression from Nicaragua last Sunday, when two planes flew over our national territory and indiscriminately bombed our land.

IMF, AID HOLD BACK LOANS UNTIL MEASURES ADOPTED

WAO21212 Rome IPS in English 26 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, April 26 (IPS) -- The International Monetary Fund is holding back a \$53 million credit due to Costa Rica because the government has not yet complied with conditions on the loan, officials said here today.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) is also delaying payment of a \$40 million loan until adjustment measures are put into effect.

The money will not be released until the price of gasoline is raised 15 percent and financial laws have been amended to ban contracts paid for in foreign currency, according to government officials. Outlawing contracts involving foreign currency would give the Central Bank exclusive control over foreign exchange, which it needs to make payments on Costa Rica's \$4 billion foreign debt.

Both a price rise for gasoline and modifications to financial law require approval by parliament, which could take several weeks, observers say.

Costa Rica appears to be emerging from its worst-ever economic crisis. Since 1981, the colon has been devalued 500 percent, and gross domestic product has shrunk every month for over two years.

President Luis Alberto Monge, who took power in mid-1982 at the head of a social democratic government, says the economy has been stabilized, and foresees a rosier outlook.

Official Finance Ministry figures predict a three percent growth in gross domestic product this year. But former Central Bank President Carlos Castillo, who resigned a few weeks ago, cautions that it will be three years before the country's economy is in good health again.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY WARNS AGAINST WORKERS' DEMONSTRATIONS

PA010402 Paris AFP in Spanish 0306 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Apr (AFP) -- The Salvadoran Armed Forces today announced that they will not participate in the events to commemorate Labor Day and warned workers that "they should not serve as instruments" for those trying to make the 1 May celebrations "end in acts of violence."

Meanwhile, some 80,000 salary earners have been called by the Salvadoran Unified Trade Union Movement (MUSYGES) to meet tomorrow at 0800 to celebrate International Labor Day. They will meet in front of Rosales Hospital in San Salvador.

Interior Minister Isidoro Lopez -- who according to the state of siege law is the person who must authorize all public demonstrations -- today said that "to this moment I have signed no authorization because no one has presented a request."

A military spokesman consulted by AFP explained that no special security measures for tomorrow's events have been adopted, but recalled that the Army "has expressed its viewpoints to the MUSYGES," an organization that the Army has linked to the guerrilla groups. According to the Army, the groups associated with this organization "are trying to make the 1 May celebrations end in acts of violence."

However, the MUSYGES has denied all ties with the rebel groups and has called on its members -- whom the spokesman said number some 80,000 persons -- to participate in the celebrations that will begin at 0800.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Workers Federation (CTS), one of the organizations that forms the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD, which has not announced that it will participate in tomorrow's events, today stated that "the commitment of the working class to achieve a democratic system must be reaffirmed," and that this means a system that responds to the interests and aspirations of the people.

The events planned for tomorrow by the MUSYGES will begin in front of Rosales Hospital, in the western sector of San Salvador, just 300 meters from the Military Hospital, which is why Army officers have expressed their fear of possible disorders.

The Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners and Missing Persons will also join in tomorrow's events and will meet at Cuscatlan Park. From there, they will walk to the Sacred Heart Church, where a mass will be said in memory of the missing and dead workers and to request the release of the union leaders who are being held at the Mariona and Ilopango jails.

PCN TO BE NEUTRAL IN RUNOFF; ARENA ON U.S. AID

PA012336 San Salvador Radio YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The National Conciliation Party's [PCN] executive committee, presided over by Francisco Jose Guerrero, presidential candidate in the 25 March 1984 elections, is holding a news conference to explain to the country and the world that its membership will remain neutral in the 6 May runoff elections, in which the PCN is not a finalist.

At the same time, at the Camino Real Hotel in San Salvador, the leaders of the National Republican Alliance, ARENA, headed by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson and (Hugo Cesar Barrera), are holding another news conference accompanied by the leaders of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, PAISA, and the Salvadoran People's Party, which have both expressed their public support for the cause of ARENA. This morning we spoke to (Hugo Cesar Barrera) about various subjects. We asked him what ARENA will do if it wins the elections and the U.S. Government decides to suspend economic and military aid to the Salvadoran Government.

[Begin (Barrera) recording] I cannot give you an answer on such speculation right now. If we win the elections and the United States says it will not help us, that will be the time to decide what we will do. We have a lot of rocks and other things lying around here. [laughter] When the time comes we will decide what to do. So far, the aid has not been suspended and we have not been notified that it will be suspended. [end recording]

COPREFA REPORTS ON CLASHES OVER WEEKEND

PA012342 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador -- date not given]

[Text] A total of 10 FMLN terrorists were killed in different parts of the country over the weekend. Soldiers from the 6th Infantry Brigade stationed in Usulután skirmished with terrorist groups in the vicinity of Las Marias Canton, Chinameca jurisdiction, San Miguel Department. Four extremists were killed and an undetermined number were wounded.

Cacahuatique Battalion troops in search operations in Cerro El Coyol and Agua Zarca cantons, Osicala jurisdiction, Morazan Department, surprised extremist gangs, resulting in fighting that ended in the deaths of three terrorists and the seizure of a large quantity of ammunition.

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Brigade of El Paraíso clashed with extremists in the vicinity of Tejutla, Chalatenango Department. Two terrorists were killed and an M-16 rifle and ammunition were seized.

Members of the 3d Infantry Brigade clashed with extremists near (El Chicrillo), in San Miguel, where one terrorist was killed. No Army casualties were reported.

Garrison Attack Confirmed

PA010319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1931 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 30 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The rebel radio station Radio Venceremos reported that in the northern sector of Morazan Department, near Osicala, FMLN fighters forced Army members to abandon their positions, and that 10 soldiers were killed and 20 were wounded during the clashes.

Colonel Carlos Rivas, chief of Military Detachment No 2, confirmed to ACAN-EFE that this morning the Army garrison in Tejutepeque, Cabanas Department, was attacked by a group of guerrillas. The officer said that the confrontation lasted more than 1 hour, but that no information was available so far on whether there were any Army or guerrilla casualties.

VENCEREMOS: HONDURAN TROOPS FIRED ON REFUGEES

PA012102 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Attention, much attention to this last-minute report received by Radio Venceremos.

We have a report for the Salvadoran and Honduran peoples and the media about the development of repressive actions against Salvadoran refugee camps in Honduran territory.

It has been reported to us that on Sunday, 22 April, at approximately 2100, Honduran soldiers accompanied by paramilitary elements surrounded the San Antonio refugee camp, at which they fired small arms, machineguns, and grenade launchers. The following day, Monday, 23 April, four civilians were found dead 50 meters from the San Antonio camp, which had been surrounded the night before.

We have been informed that the military siege continued until 24 April, and that it was said that the troops were awaiting orders from the Marcala Garrison to take over the refugee camp.

According to reports, on the same day, 24 April, paramilitary groups were mobilized in the Honduran town of Colomoncagua, with the intention of carrying out actions against the Colomoncagua refugee camp. The reports note that it is a known fact in Honduras that effective 1 May, Honduran troops will reportedly be posted along the border, in what could be a repetition of the deployment of troops to support the Salvadoran Army in its operations while elections are held in our country.

All these reports have been confirmed and underscored by the fact that today, 30 April, access from Honduran territory to Colomoncagua and refugee camps in this area has been closed.

U.S. Ambassador Negroponte took advantage of the incident of the two U.S. helicopters to exert pressure for the transfer of Salvadoran refugee camps from the border area.

We call on the media and humanitarian international organizations to go to the Colomoncagua region and the refugee camps in this area to investigate these repressive actions and the threats against Salvadoran refugees.

HONDURASLABOR SECRETARY DISMISSED; WORKERS PROTEST

PA012226 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2115 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 1 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The celebration in Honduras of International Labor Day was marked by the dismissal of Humberto Montes, secretary of labor and social welfare, and harsh criticism of the government.

Honduran workers demanded solutions to the problems of unemployment, the high cost of living, the lack of housing and health services, administrative corruption, and foreign armed intervention in the country during a massive gathering staged by leftist and rightist labor unions on the main street of Tegucigalpa.

Meanwhile, the government last night announced the dismissal of Secretary Humberto Montes and the appointment of Amado H. Nunez to fill the post. Nunez promised to be "like the pointer of a balance and to turn the secretariat into an office for the reconciliation of capital and labor."

Montes' dismissal came as a surprise to the workers, although the main labor organizations had been demanding the secretary's dismissal for more than a year.

AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR RESIGNS AFTER THREAT

PA011717 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Dr Roberto Suazo Tome, the Honduran ambassador to El Salvador, yesterday presented his resignation to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat. So far, there is no information regarding his reasons for leaving the diplomatic post. Suazo Tome resigned from the post of ambassador to the Salvadoran Government and people a few days after a suicide commando threatened to blow up the diplomatic representation of several countries in San Salvador. The list included the Honduran Embassy.

The suicide commando also said it would attack diplomatic personnel, thus endangering the Honduran ambassador's life. Suazo Tome's resignation was revealed yesterday by Foreign Secretariat sources. However, even though the life of diplomats accredited to El Salvador is now endangered, there is no reliable information as to Suazo Tome's reasons for presenting his resignation.

PNH LEADER CHARGES U.S. ENVOY WITH MEDDLING

PA012157 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 May 84

[Interview with Ruben Dario Zepeda, leader of the Nationalist Party of Honduras, PNH, by reporter Marta Lidia Reino; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Zepeda] The Central Committee has taken into consideration and has very objectively evaluated the charges [against U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte] to which we are referring. Concerning these charges, I can affirm them, because I know for sure that both the political attache and the ambassador himself meddle in our country's political, economic, financial, labor, and immigration affairs. It is no secret that this is the true role played by the U.S. ambassadors and political attaches in the countries where they are accredited.

[Words indistinct] I do not know if the U.S. Embassy accredited here in our country is manipulating us, but I know for a fact that the ambassador, either directly or through his political attache, intervenes in the political affairs of Honduras. As for intervention in the PNH, the convention will await a report by the Central Committee; and if there is enough evidence, we will immediately proceed to lodge a protest with the U.S. State Department.

[Reino] Aside from these actions, what other legal measures might be taken?

[Zepeda] Well, I do not think [words indistinct] would declare war on the United States, although we might even win it, what with the way in which the United States is running things lately. I do not think there is any alternative other than denouncing the situation at international political forums and to the government that accredited this ambassador as a personal envoy of President Reagan to the Honduran Government and people. He was not accredited here so that he could meddle in our political affairs.

[Reino] Could you demand that the president declare Ambassador Negroponte persona non grata?

[Zepeda] Of course, definitely; that would be the major thing. Should such a decision be made, the PNH itself could do it. [sentence as heard] I do not see why not, unless there are political ties between certain PNH leaders and the ambassador or his political attache, but so far I know nothing about this. As for me, I do not maintain ties with either of these gentlemen, and as soon as I had the necessary evidence, I would not hesitate to accuse them publicly.

STUDENTS PLANNING TO DEMONSTRATE ARRESTED

PA010334 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Apr 84 p 9

[Text] More than 100 persons, including members of the Olanchito University Students Association, who were traveling to La Paz, Honduras, were arrested by the Army yesterday in the town of Flores.

It was learned that the arrested students had hired three buses to go to La Paz to stage a peaceful demonstration outside President Roberto Suazo Cordova's home and to hold an open-air mass.

Relatives of some of the arrested persons have told this newspaper that the group included the mother and other relatives of Gustavo Morales Funes [not further identified]. They were going to deliver a letter to President Suazo Cordova to request the release of Morales Funes.

It was also learned that the demonstrators carried placards and leaflets.

The sources said that other persons may have been arrested who were heading to La Paz from Olanchito to participate in the peaceful demonstration to be staged on 29 April 1984. [sentence as published] The fate of the arrested persons is not known because the sources consulted have refused to give any details.

BRIEFS

NEW POPULATION DIRECTOR -- Colonel Miguel Flores was sworn in as new director general of population and immigration policy on 12 April. [Summary] [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Apr 84 PA]

NICARAGUAFOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS ATTACKS TO COSTA RICA

PA011641 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Protest note sent by acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez -- date and place not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Carlos Jose Gutierrez, foreign minister; San Jose, Costa Rica; Mr Minister:

I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency to refer to the following events:

Since 26 April 1984, there have been concentrations of mercenary forces led by traitor Eden Pastora in Costa Rican territory on the border with Nicaragua. In different incursions into our territory, those mercenary forces have been carrying out attacks on Nicaraguan positions in the area of El Castillo, Rio San Juan Department. Several clashes with Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops guarding that area have occurred. These attacks have left one dead and five wounded on the part of the EPS, while the mercenary forces suffered six dead.

On 28 April from Costa Rican Territory an undetermined number of mercenaries used 81-mm mortars to harass the border town of Cardenas for 2 hours. No damage or casualties were reported.

In formally denouncing these events, the Nicaraguan Government once again reiterates to the minister the imperative need to take measures to put a halt to these actions that cast serious doubt on the neutrality policy proclaimed by your illustrious government.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest esteem and consideration.

[Signed] Nora Astorga, acting Foreign Minister

Second Protest Note Sent

PA011644 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Protest note sent by acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, dated in Managua on 30 April 1984 -- read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Manuel Espinoza]

[Text] Mr Minister: I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency to add other actions to those denounced in our previous note, No 0701 of this same date.

As a result of the attacks described in the previous note, this afternoon about 500 mercenary invaders were expelled to Costa Rican territory. Since 26 April, they had been trying to seize the military garrison located in the El Castillo border post. At this time, those forces are on Cerro Las Mercedes, located 7 km southeast of El Castillo in Costa Rican territory.

As a result of these clashes, close to 30 more casualties were inflicted on the mercenaries led by traitor Eden Pastora, some of whom were taken to Costa Rican territory. Among those remaining in Nicaraguan territory, one of Puerto Rican nationality was identified. This once again confirms the mercenary character of the counterrevolutionary forces that operate in and from Costa Rican territory.

In view of the above, the Nicaraguan Government denounces these attacks and at the same time expresses its most formal and energetic protest to the Costa Rican Government over the absence of measures to guarantee that its territory will not be used in the plans of aggression that the U.S. Administration is currently implementing against our country.

Our attention is drawn to the fact that these latest actions coincide with attacks that from Honduran territory the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, is also directing at a time when U.S. warships are in the Gulf of Fonseca.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest esteem and consideration.

[Signed] Nora Astorga, acting Foreign Minister

FOREIGN MINISTRY SENDS PROTEST TO HONDURAS

PA011709 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Protest note sent by acting Foreign Minister Nora Astorga to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica -- date and place not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica, Honduran foreign secretary; Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Mr Secretary:

I address Your Excellency to refer to the following events:

In recent weeks and as a positive sign for the normalization of our relations, we had noted an appreciable drop in the attacks and provocations that Honduran Army troops had been carrying out as a practice on our border region. However, at a time when our country is the victim of a large-scale aggression by mercenary forces financed and directed by the Reagan administration, and when the presence of U.S. troops and war means are further worsening tension in the Central American area, we see with renewed concern events such as the ones I will now describe:

On 23 April between 0830 and 0850, an undetermined number of Honduran Army troops harassed with rifle fire from Honduran territory the La Ceiba observation post, 5 km west of Somotillo. No casualties were reported among the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] members.

On 29 April at 0820, a silver-colored twin-engine plane from Honduran territory flew at 1,000 meters above the port of Morazan. It carried out maneuvers with the intention of attacking and was repelled by EPS members. The plane withdrew to its place of origin. That same day, at 1905, an 81-mm mortar was fired from Honduran territory at the El Espino observation post without causing any damage.

On 30 April, at 0210, a commando group from Honduran territory used rifles, .50 caliber machineguns, and an as of yet undetermined type of mortar to harass a group of 12 EPS members who were guarding the Estero Real bridge in Chinandega Department.

As a result, two were wounded, one was kidnapped, and three are missing. After carrying out this action, the commando group withdrew to its place of origin.

In recounting these events, the Nicaraguan Government presents to the illustrious Honduran Government its most formal and energetic protest over these types of action that are contrary to international law and that occur at a particularly difficult time for the Central American region.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my regard.

[Signed] Nora Astorga, acting Foreign Minister

NUNEZ RAPS 3-COUNTRY DOCUMENT, SAYS NO DISARMING

PA010450 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] Carlos Nunez Tellez, commander of the revolution and president of the Nicaraguan State Council, told local and foreign newsmen upon his arrival at Managua's Cesar Augusto Sandino Airport that Nicaragua's mission in Mexico had been successful. The other members of the State Council delegation who went to Mexico were Domingo Sanchez Salgado, its second vice president; deputy commander Rafael Solis, its secretary; and Angela Rosa Acevedo.

In Mexico, we affirmed that Nicaragua is not only facing a military plan that has been launched by introducing military forces from Honduras and Costa Rica, but also a political and diplomatic propaganda campaign intended to play down the international repudiation caused by the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan ports, which violated all norms of international law, Commander Nunez said. He reported that during their visit to Mexico the Nicaraguans noted that Mexico's foreign policy is vigorously supported by the Congress and the PRI, and pointed out that the problems in Central America are not derived from poor relations but from working under the shadow of the U.S. Government, which obstructs every possibility of negotiation within the Contadora Group because the group supports Nicaragua.

The United States must be genuinely interested in finding a political solution to the Central American problems in order for the Contadora Group to make progress in its peace efforts, State Council President Carlos Nunez said. He indicated that so far, the United States has only shown interest in portraying Nicaragua as a colony and in attempting to impose solutions on other Central American nations.

He remarked that the aggression that Nicaragua has been experiencing in the past few days is part of a plan to distract world public opinion from the proceedings that are taking place at the International Court of Justice in The Hague regarding Nicaragua's lawsuit over the mining of Nicaraguan ports. He observed that the military actions launched by the self-styled Nicaraguan Democratic Force from Honduras and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance from Costa Rica against the Nicaraguan Government and people have increased.

The president of the State Council asked yesterday: Up to what point are the Governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica interested in bilateral or multilateral treaties, and are their latest postures an attempt to inflict the final blow on Contadora in order to dismiss it as a channel of negotiation? He said that according to a request submitted by those three governments to the Contadora Group they want Nicaragua to disarm and put its hands up, but that, fortunately, Nicaragua has its finger on the trigger.

[Begin Nunez recording] We must take note of the changes that have come about, of the joining of the foreign policies of three countries -- Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras -- and of the statement by Costa Rican President Monge, the highest authority of the government and of the country, regarding stopping all support for Contadora if it one-sidedly supports Nicaragua.

In this sense it is fitting to ask oneself up to what point and how much those countries are really interested in bilateral and multilateral treaties, or whether their latest postures are intended as the final blow against Contadora to dismiss it as a channel of negotiation. If this is the case, the Contadora Group nations would have nothing to do with the problem. It would simply be the responsibility of each one of us. It is unfortunate that a country and a government like Costa Rica, which has proclaimed its neutrality, its sovereignty, and its independence, is seen hand in hand with two countries that have emphatically rejected any possibility of negotiation. They have come together to ask Nicaragua to disarm [desnudarse], which means to eliminate all the defensive capabilities it has been building up. The document sent to the Contadora Group ministers is a request to Nicaragua to disarm. If this condition is met, the setting would be favorable for them to eliminate the revolution.

I will not say that it is naive. One must emphasize that there is a triple alliance now that is trying to get Nicaragua to put its hands up. Fortunately, we do not have our hands up. We have our finger on the trigger. [end recording]

GUERRILLA COMMANDER ON NORTHERN ZELAYA ATTACKS

PA011825 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] We continue to uphold the national sovereignty because that is the will of peasants, teachers, and workers in northern Zelaya who have repelled the attacks of the counterrevolution, Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez, government delegate in Special Zone No 1, has said. Commander Ramirez explained that the imperialist invaders have been unable to stage a large attack in northern Zelaya because they have found people who are ready to defend national dignity.

[Begin William Ramirez recording] The counterrevolution has been unable to stage a large and important action, but it has been involved in affecting the economy and productive activity. It is in these conditions that the FSLN has carried out all its mobilization and party tasks. It has been able to involve all the population of northern Zelaya in the defense activities, especially in Tasba Pri, where the Miskitos organized in reserve companies have confronted the counterrevolution. They confronted the counterrevolutionaries who attacked Sumubila and who were unable to seize the population or inflict the damage they had planned. The Miskito teachers, police, and civilians organized in the militias, confronted the counterrevolutionaries, and defended the town. They prevented the achievement of the counterrevolutionary plans. We have upheld our territorial sovereignty. We have been able to repel the attacks of the counterrevolutionary bands. We have been able to increase the awareness of the Miskito people. We have been able to better organize the Miskito population militarily so that they are now the ones defending northern Zelaya. The benefits achieved by the revolution through the productive and economic activity have continued to increase although not at the pace we had programmed. This is not due to the shortcomings of the state or the leadership, but to the counterrevolutionary activity financed by U.S. imperialism. [end recording]

Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez, government delegate in Special Zone No 1 in northern Zelaya, this weekend gave a detailed report on the counterrevolutionary activity in that region.

Commander Ramirez, who is also the FSLN political secretary in that zone, said that in the first quarter of the year, the counterrevolution has been attacking economic objectives in the region in order to affect the economy and productivity.

He indicated that the invaders' actions include killing Miskito Indians, placing mines in roads, and destroying economic targets where the population works or receives social services. The locations damaged by the counterrevolution include the El Alto Dam, located near the Bonanza mine, and the destruction of the Sumubila Health Center where the Miskitos received medical attention.

Commander Ramirez said that due to the placement of mines in roads, Construction Ministry and private trucks have been damaged. Nevertheless, the people of northern Zelaya continue to work and to militarily prepare to defeat the imperialist enemy, Guerrilla Commander William Ramirez said.

LUCIO JIMENEZ SPEAKS ON DEFENDING REVOLUTION

PA012313 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1624 GMT 1 May 84

[Speech by Lucio Jimenez, member of the Sandinist Assembly and Secretary General of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers, at an International Labor Day commemoration at the German Pomares Stadium in Chinandega -- live]

[Excerpts] We commemorate this fifth anniversary of universal labor day since the triumph of the revolution by resisting a criminal war imposed by the Reagan administration and carried out by the Central Intelligence Agency and the counterrevolutionary gangs that invade us from Honduras and Costa Rica. Nicaragua is at war. Everything is secondary to the military defense of the revolution. The war has caused the death of many technicians, workers, peasants, and members of the civilian population; the abandoning of crops; the destruction of agricultural and construction machinery and houses; an interruption in the construction of hydroelectric projects; the blowing up of bridges; the destruction of child development and health centers and schools; the sabotage of oil storage facilities; the mining of our ports; and the kidnapping of the populations of whole towns.

We are defeating the mercenary invaders of the CIA and Somozist counterrevolutionaries. These mercenaries fall in the mountains of Nicaragua every day through the legitimate defense exercised by our people under the command of our glorious Armed Forces, the Sandinist Peoples Army, and forces of the Interior Ministry. The workers have reinforced these fighting forces, and we will continue to do so as required.

The factories must continue to be the rearguard of this glorious Army that is fulfilling the ideals of Sandino. At the same time we must struggle against the political positions assumed by the Catholic hierarchy which, neglecting its own role, is trying to become a political party by reaffirming the positions of imperialism, the counterrevolution, and the domestic reaction. It does not understand its own mandate. The hierarchy should concern itself only with church affairs and let the political parties deal with their own affairs.

Dear companeros, the electoral process that is approaching is [word indistinct] for the workers to reaffirm their iron will to defend our gains. Those who believe that they are going to distort the path that the workers have chosen with the election campaign are wrong. The election campaign, like the victories achieved against the CIA mercenaries, belongs to the workers and the revolutionary people.

Our program of struggle will be to overcome the economic limitations. Our watchword is to correct our errors. Our enemy is imperialism and its domestic allies. Therefore, companeros, we will mobilize in the streets, in the districts, in the factories, in the schools, and on the farms. There we will be with our rifle, our book, our hammer our plow, and our vote to demonstrate that we are invincible.

SOCIALIST PARTY APPOINTS CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER

PA012140 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] More than 200 union representatives of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, PCN, yesterday attended the official appointment of the party's presidential candidates for the November elections. The appointed candidates are: Domingo Sanchez, and old union leader, presidential candidate; and Adolfo Evertsz, vice presidential candidate. Doctor Rafael Cordoba Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, attended a party given in Sanchez' honor. He issued a statement praising the PCN candidates' qualifications and history of struggle in favor of the Nicaraguan people's freedom. Sanchez expressed his thanks for the homage and mentioned several union leaders who died during the struggle against the beasts of the genocidal Somozist National Guard.

PPSCA ANNOUNCES REMOVAL OF SECRETARY GENERAL

PA020027 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Apr 84 p 10

[Text] The Authentic Social Christian Party (PPSCA) today announced that its secretary general, Alfonso Calero Sanchez, has been removed. The decision was announced by Aldo Corea Gutierrez, vice president of the Legal Committee and member of the National Board of the PPSCA, in a published statement addressed to the party's sympathizers, members, and supporters, in which it is explained that Calero Sanchez was removed on orders from Legal coordinator Salomon Calvo Arrieta.

RADIO, LA PRENSA REPORTER ARRESTED IN MANAGUA

San Jose Radio Reports Arrest

PA011858 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] Sandinist Government officials have refused to supply details on the whereabouts and personal welfare of our correspondent and journalist of the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA, Luis Manuel Mora Sanchez. As we reported in our previous newscast, Luis Manuel Mora was arrested yesterday by state security officials. He was charged with violating some of the state of emergency rules and giving this radio station information that goes against the Sandinist revolution. La Voz de Nicaragua reported the arrest in this morning's newscast, adding that Luis Manuel Mora is wounded. After hearing the information from the official Sandinist radio station, we contacted Mora Sanchez' relatives and fellow workers in Managua. However, they could only report that he is reportedly wounded, but they do not know what kind of wound he has or how he was wounded. The LA PRENSA journalist, who has been a correspondent for this radio station since last February, was last seen yesterday at approximately 1000, when he left LA PRENSA's premises in his own vehicle. According to his fellow workers at the Nicaraguan newspaper, there is no information about the journalist's car, either.

For the moment, they are waiting for the ruling which will be issued at noon today by the third region's court of appeals of the Supreme Justice Tribunal, regarding the writ of habeas corpus which Luis Manuel Mora had presented some days ago against Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government for National Reconstruction. He presented the habeas corpus writ after Ortega issued some accusations against him on 14 April, which we have already reported to you?

Security Official on Arrest

PA020020 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] First Lieutenant Oscar Loza, chief of operations of the General Directorate of State Security, yesterday said that after having been found guilty of violating the national emergency law, Luis Mora Sanchez, a journalist for the newspaper LA PRENSA, was arrested. Journalist Luis Mora Sanchez had become the official correspondent for a counterrevolutionary station, to which he sent distorted reports on the armed people's daily struggle against the mercenary intervention of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

In a news conference, Lt Oscar Loza denied rumors spread by counterrevolutionaries that prisoner Mora Sanchez is wounded and hospitalized. Loza said that Luis Mora Sanchez is in good health. Lt Loza reported on the counterrevolutionary activities by correspondent Luis Mora:

[Begin Loza recording] We cannot believe that this was a decision that Luis Mora Sanchez made on his own. We believe that his attitude and actions are directed by the enemies of the revolution to provoke the revolutionary authorities so that we would have the choice of either arresting him and being accused abroad of not respecting freedom of information or of permitting him to continue his activity that harms the interests of the country's defense. Naturally, we cannot yield to blackmail and permit this man to continue to manipulate the news and, as I said before, to harm the interests of defense.

There is also a communique that was issued by the Social Democratic Party [PSD], which warns the authorities that these kinds of actions constitute a negative factor in considering its participation in the electoral process. In other words, the PSD is practically trying to blackmail the revolutionary government by stating that if we keep Mora Sanchez under arrest they are going to reconsider their participation in the elections. As I said earlier, this position is not one that Luis Mora or the PSD have adopted on their own. This position is directed from abroad by the enemies of revolution.

We must also state that for almost a year, we, as a security body, have been aware of Luis Mora's links with elements of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] led by traitor Eden Pastora. We have been aware of his participation in activities that violate our country's laws. He has carried out counterrevolutionary activities that harm our country's defense interest. An example of his attitude is the report that he transmitted after Holy Week, saying that 20 people were killed by military trucks. He links what occurred in Chinandega and in Pochomil without pointing out that the person responsible for the events in Chinandega was harshly penalized by the military authorities and that the accident in Pochomil was not caused by a military truck but by a civilian vehicle going the wrong way.

These actions, at a time when our country is the victim of an imperialist aggression and when the enemy seeks to internally destabilize our revolution, play into the hands of imperialism, and they mean that a person is knowingly working for the interests of the counterrevolution and therefore must be penalized by the law. [end recording]

REPORTAGE ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR UNION MEETING

Delegates To Donate Blood

PA271627 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] The delegates from 60 countries who are attending the International Labor Union Meeting for Peace will make a massive blood donation for the fighters who are defending our nation's sovereignty. Panamanian delegate Julio Bermudez made this motion upon learning of appeals by the National Blood Center [Centro Nacional de Sangre].

During the meeting, which entered the phase of statements and debates yesterday, several delegations proposed that a plan of action be adopted to curb the escalation of U.S. military activities against Central America. The event, which is being held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center, may vote to condemn the United States and make an urgent appeal to governments of the world to support the peace efforts of the Contadora Group, several delegates said.

(Harold Supriano) of the United States' AFL-CIO said that his country's unions oppose North American intervention in Central America. We don't want another Vietnam, said (Supriano), delegate for the United Public Employees. The meeting is continuing today and will close on Saturday by Commander Daniel Ortega.

C.A. Labor Situation Reviewed

PA272300 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The Committee for Trade Union Unity in Central America, Belize and Panama, CUSCA, yesterday charged that Central American workers are being persecuted and oppressed in all countries in the area with the healthy exception of Nicaragua. Those who raised the charge were CUSCA board members Rogelino Mina and Jose Antonio Moran, who said among other things that in Costa Rica the penal code is applied to workers who are organized [word indistinct] who try to exercise their right to strike.

In Honduras, the victims of the persecution against the unions include 111 organized workers who were kidnapped and murdered. It was disclosed that organized workers in Guatemala and El Salvador face a similar situation. Moran made this comment at a news conference at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center.

[Begin Moran recording] As a regional body, CUSCA also wishes to denounce before the delegates to this international meeting and before the international press the brutal repression against us, the Central American workers, which is part of the Reagan plan, and the persecution of the trade union movement by applying the penal code to workers in each of these countries except Nicaragua for exercising their right to strike.

In Honduras, the victims of the persecution of trade unions include 111 companeros who were kidnapped and murdered. There is also the kidnapping of Companero Rolando Vindell, president of the Union of Workers of the National Enterprise for Electric Power, STENEE; and Companero Gustavo Morales, former president of the National Agrarian Institute and member of the union of the National Children's Board [Patronato Nacional de la Infancia].

In Guatemala, 17 union leaders have been abducted, 4 have been murdered, and many have been tortured since November 1983. There are also the massacres of civilians, particularly Indians. The trade union movement has been declared illegal, and private enterprise refuses to engage in contract bargaining talks in El Salvador. There exists an increase in the struggle for redress of the trade union movement because despite the persecution, jailings, banishments, and murders, unity is a reality, and this has enabled workers of the public sector and private enterprise to declare strikes that are still in progress. [end recording]

Meeting Issues Communique

PA280337 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2323 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Declaration issued at the conclusion of the International Labor Union Meeting for Peace, in Managua, on 27 April 1984; read by Lucio Jimenez; in progress -- live or recorded; article numbers as heard]

[Text] ...was contained in the document issued by the Nicaraguan Union Coordinating Board. We have held our meeting with a high spirit of solidarity and [word indistinct] divergencies, only [word indistinct]; in the end, we reached an agreement regarding fundamental things, on which we have fully concurred. These are the results of those concurrences:

Declaration of Managua, First International Labor Union Meeting for Peace

We, the union representatives from all over the world, met on 24, 25, 26, and 27 April 1984, in Managua, free Nicaragua, on the invitation of the Nicaraguan Labor Union Federation, the organization that comprises the main labor unions in this fraternal country. We have heard and discussed within the framework of this International Labor Union Meeting for Peace the main problems being experienced by workers throughout the world in their struggle for peace.

2. Labor union representatives from 50 countries have attended the meeting.

4. The delegates have agreed that labor unions represent an important achievement and a great, organized workers' force for the defense of our own interests and the construction of more just societies. It has not been easy to win the right to organize, and thousands of workers have offered their lives throughout the world to the struggle to achieve this.

We avail ourselves of the occasion to render a special honor to the union members who have been killed or reported missing and to the workers who are in prison and are tortured, persecuted, and mistreated while defending their legitimate rights.

5. The delegates are clearly aware that not all workers think alike and that we all have the right to express our differences. Nevertheless, vital coincidences exist that allow us to establish agreements to defend the democratic rights, liberty, and independence of nations, and essential rights such as our lives. These agreements (?represent) peace.

6. The delegates have fully agreed that there is a need to strengthen the workers' unity and thus to be able to exert decisive influence in important events that directly affect us, such as the defense of our lives, peace, and the progress of mankind. We will become a gigantic force which advocates our principles only by uniting all those common goals.

7. The labor union representatives observed with deep concern the increasing deterioration of international affairs, which dangerously increases the risk of a nuclear confrontation, due to the uncontrolled development of arms production, advocated by those who make business with wars.

8. The delegates recognize that the situation has already deteriorated to open aggression and armed confrontations that have shed the blood of nations and have gravely violated their sovereignty and independence. We are affected by the unpunished interventions and wars that involve many countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

9. The delegates view with concern the increase in international tension, especially the breakdown of talks that sought to achieve international detente and to stop the rash arms buildup. The precarious balance achieved in past decades with the treaties on nuclear arms limitations have been destabilized. Unfortunately, the term "cold war" has once again become a deplorable part of international relations.

10. The world trade union movement is alarmed by the 50,000 bombs, nuclear warheads, and nuclear weapons now in existence. They represent the equivalent of more than 15 billion tons of TNT. Hence, more than 3 tons of TNT are destined for every person on earth.

11. The same alarm is felt for the stepped-up nuclear race that started after World War II. It has raised nuclear expenses in 1982 to \$750 billion.

12. It is dramatic to know that, while those resources are being spent on the arms buildup, most of the people living in the Third World suffer extreme poverty. Sixty-five percent of the world population has access to barely 20 percent of the available material resources. While developed countries reach a per capita income in excess of \$6,000, most of the underdeveloped or developing countries' income is considerably less than \$500 -- in some cases, it barely reaches \$50. Despite this situation, developed countries are not devoid of social tension that stems from the economic crisis. It is evident in greater unemployment and deteriorated living conditions for workers.

13. The delegates believe that this unjust situation, a product of the current international economic order, is a permanent source of unrest, war, poverty, and suffering -- mainly for under developed countries.

14. An example of this is the dramatic situation that prevails in these countries' economies, which are subject to the domination of a small group of banks. These countries have accumulated debts in excess of \$6 billion, and approximately half of this amount is owed by Latin America.

15. The labor union representatives have also indignantly confirmed that direct foreign investments in the developing countries are multiplied many times over in profits that are taken out of these countries by the transnational companies.

16. The delegates are aware that the number of unemployed and underemployed workers in the underdeveloped world totaled more than 500 million in 1982. This number represents approximately 50 percent of its economically active population. This picture shows the harsh reality of the life of the workers in this part of the planet where more than three-fourths of humanity live.

17. The delegates believe that the peoples of the underdeveloped countries suffer an unjust economic relationship through unequal trade and the irrational exploitation of their natural wealth on the basis of the use of mechanisms of financial and economic domination and that they require the international solidarity of the workers to end that situation. The solution of this grave problem is an integral part of the struggle for peace.

18. Within this context, the delegates demand a stop to the aggression against the Central American peoples, particularly those of Nicaragua, who are currently the victims of U.S. Government economic sanctions and intervention through the CIA and other military and diplomatic institutions.

19. The delegates believe that the social upheavals in the area are the product of poverty and the unjust distribution of wealth as a result of foreign and oligarchic domination. The workers of most of those countries are excluded from the decision-making instruments in the economic, social, and political fields. This constitutes a fundamental aspect of the regional problems.

20. The delegates express their recognition of the Contadora Group's peace efforts and other initiatives that represent a sensible and energetic position in strict respect of the people's right to self-determination in the face of the many tensions that the Central American area is experiencing.

We demand that the Reagan administration abandon its attitude of hindering the Contadora Group's peace efforts aimed at achieving a negotiated political resolution of the region's conflicts. The U.S. Government's refusal to recognize the International Court of Justice in The Hague in view of Nicaragua's complaint over the mining of its ports makes us indignant.

21. For the delegates, this entire situation of grave armed conflicts, poverty, and threat of nuclear war shows the need for the active presence of the workers in the struggle for peace.

22. Regardless of our national, social, or ideological differences, workers have the powerful weapon of our class unity to oppose poverty and war. We are willing to unite all our forces and our union organizations in an international effort of solidarity that will develop awareness of the crisis threatening us, that will strengthen our organizations, and that will permit us to make specific proposals that will impose the peoples' will over the ambitions of the aggressors.

23. Humanity has no other path but the workers' struggle to achieve a stable peace. In view of this reality, we propose specific measures to obtain peace, the democratization of societies, and the economic and social development of humanity.

A. The workers should demand that agreements be concluded leading to the progressive destruction of all existing nuclear arms. In this regard, we support the initiatives presented by the peace-loving forces of the entire world, and we join the struggle for disarmament.

B. The delegates believe that the destruction of nuclear weapons does not eliminate the generative process of armed conflicts. Therefore, we must promote mechanisms for the progressive and programmed reduction of conventional weapons.

C. The labor unionists propose that the funds made available as a result of demilitarization be invested in health, education, housing, food, and employment programs for the benefit of workers.

D. The labor unionists reject any type of intervention and we actively assume the defense of the principles of sovereignty and peoples' self-determination -- basic conditions for the existence of international peace. Therefore, we reject the financial and military support that some governments are providing to repressive regimes in the world.

E. The delegates express support for negotiated political solutions as a means of resolving existing controversies among countries.

F. The delegates view as an essential democratic right the workers' participation in decisionmaking at all levels of society. For the delegates, the workers' direct participation in society is a struggle that cannot be postponed in the process of construction and improvement of democratic societies.

G. The delegates believe that it is essential that the vast movement of solidarity with the workers who suffer exploitation and repression be supported. International solidarity, as a fundamental principle in the achievement of a better world, must appear as an element in the programs of the labor union movement.

H. The delegates of the labor unions believe that in the workers' education there must be a predominant place for the intensification of the struggle for peace and the solidarity that will permit the development of awareness about the danger of war and foreign aggression, that will counteract the misinformation and manipulation of information by some news agencies with regard to the events in Central America and Nicaragua in particular, and that will work for the effective mobilization of the workers in defense of peace.

I. Recognizing the role of the Nicaraguan Labor Coordinating Organization in the successful holding of this meeting, the delegates would like to entrust it with the study of the possibilities for new joint actions and the consideration of consultations with the various labor union organizations of different opinions.

J. The delegates participating in this meeting promise to make known to our respective organizations the information in this final document, to act on the basis of giving full support to the Central American peoples, and to promote the cause of peace throughout the world.

In addition, this document will from now on be known as the 1984 Managua Declaration and will be sent to all the world's labor unions to receive their support.

Ramirez Delivers Closing Speech

PA281932 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Speech by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at the conclusion of the International Labor Union Meeting for Peace; in Managua on 27 April -- recorded]

[Excerpts] The CIA is using hundreds of thousands of dollars of the taxpayers' money to purchase ships, helicopters, planes, and supplies for Somozist mercenary forces operating from bases that the CIA itself directs and controls in the Honduran Departments of Lempira, El Paraiso, and Choluteca. They are using landing strips and installations built by U.S. Army engineering brigades and are operating from bases on CIA-rented farms in Barra del Colorado, San Carlos, Sarapiquí, Upala, and elsewhere in Costa Rica.

The CIA is using thousands of dollars of the U.S. taxpayers' money to hire mercenaries and to bribe Honduran and Costa Rican officials; to build caches to store arms and ammunition; to build military roads near our borders for the exclusive use of Somozist mercenaries; to pay for propaganda trips to Europe and the United States by their leaders; and to pay for the incendiary bombs, phosphorous bombs, and rockets dropped on our rural towns, destroying health centers, schools, and agrarian cooperatives. This gigantic, multimillion-dollar CIA war, on which the U.S. President is regularly briefed, and which is reported in secret sessions of several committees of the House and Senate, has claimed 1,873 civilian lives in Nicaragua, not including those killed in combat. These Nicaraguans were abducted between January 1981 and March 1983. [sentence as heard] Not included among these are the thousands of Miskito Indians who have been abducted at riflepoint and taken to CIA concentration camps that have been established in Lempira Department, Honduras. Nor does this figure include the hundreds of peasants and entire families who have been taken out of valleys and villages in Madriz, Nueva Segovia, and Jinotega and taken forcefully to Honduras or those taken forcefully from Rio San Juan Department to Costa Rica.

This is all part of an overall terrorist policy advocated by a member country of the United Nations and a signatory of all human rights treaties -- a country determined to destroy the morale of the Nicaraguans, to create terror to make us yield. But it has achieved quite the opposite: It has strengthened our determination to resist and defeat them. This official U.S. Government terrorist policy has resulted in losses of 2,030,800,000 cordovas to Nicaragua between January 1981 and March 1984. Of this total, 43 percent has adversely affected agriculture, forestry, and fishing; 25 percent the infrastructure; and the rest social and governmental areas. In addition, we have been forced to divert considerable sums of money in our budget to defense. And all this is taking place in a poor country wishing to grow and develop; a country suffering the effects of a worldwide capitalist crisis.

On that day [November 1984], our people will hold their great national dialogue, expressing through their vote what they have so far said with their rifles and the literacy and vaccination campaigns, in the trenches, in the cooperatives, in the factories, and in the schools. This constant exercise of democracy in so many areas will culminate at the polls. The right to vote was also gained with the revolution and, in organizing our democracy and giving ourselves a system of political and social life, we are being sovereign and exercising our right to our national sovereignty and independence.

Those interested in establishing the validity of their own political projects and in implementing their own ideas about democracy have in our sovereign elections the chance to materialize these ideas and projects. There is no other opportunity than those guaranteed by the electoral process.

Our heroic combatants and our people up in arms in the mountains are holding a dialogue with the mercenaries and traitors. [applause] We shall not speak with the mercenaries and traitors, except through the mouths of our rifles until there are no mercenaries and traitors left to hold a dialogue. We are telling this to all kinds of leaders, whether repentant or not.

This struggle waged by Nicaragua against Reagan, the CIA, the Somozist guardsmen, and the turncoats and traitors to achieve national independence and democracy involves the idea of peace that you defend and proclaim. Peace in Central America and definitive peace in Nicaragua depend on respect, security, nonintervention, and noninterference in our domestic affairs. There shall be no peace as long as the United States maintains its policy of aggression and terror.

ARDE'S PASTORA ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE, U.S.

PM301357 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 19 Apr 84 p 9

[Interview with Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, leader Eden Pastora by Joaquín Ibartz at Delta, near the Costa Rican border; date not given]

[Excerpt] Delta -- "Within 2 months at the most I will attack and occupy Bluefields, Nicaragua's major town on the Atlantic coast. Our advance is spectacular; the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance is the fastest growing guerrilla movement in Latin America. We now have 4,000 armed men and will be arming a further 10,000. In a year we could have 50,000 fighters," Commander Eden Pastora said at this border location within Nicaragua, where ARDE has one of its major camps.

He was relaxed, calm, smiling, and good-humored. The legendary "Commander Zero" spoke to me for 90 minutes shortly after leaving San Juan del Norte, the strategic location taken last Friday by the forces of ARDE, his guerrilla organization.

Question: How will the occupation of San Juan del Norte influence the dynamics of the ARDE struggle?

Answer: San Juan del Norte was a symbol because the Sandinists defended it very well. They even had SAM-2 and SAM-7 rockets, which are now in our possession. I have received promises of arms for the additional 10,000 men that we already have.

Question: Promises from whom?

Answer: From democratic forces. From old friends of ours. From organizations that helped us in the previous war. We have persistently asked for weapons. People will not commit themselves until they see action.

Question: From which countries will you be receiving weapons?

Answer: Not from any governments. Only from individuals and organizations. From Panaman, Costa Rica, the United States, Venezuela, Mexico, Portugal, and Spanish organizations.

Question: Could you give me the names of the Spanish organizations?

Answer: Let me explain. They are all helping on the condition that we do not name them. They detest communists of any country. Yes, they detest them.

Question: The communists are unimportant in Spain now....

Answer: What? The Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] is afraid of the PSOE's most left-wing sector. You know that within the party there are people of the left, center, and right. The PSOE is afraid of its left wing.

Question: What is the nature of your relations with [Spanish Premier] Felipe Gonzalez?

Answer: They are still good. We are friends of Felipe's, unless he says otherwise. Our good relations are not between states, but between individuals.

Question: What are ARDE's immediate military objectives?

Answer: We want to occupy Bluefields soon. This is no boast. When I say I am going for San Juan del Norte, I go for San Juan del Norte. I am the only commander who announces where he is going to attack. It is said that in a preannounced war soldiers do not die. I do not want the Sandinist troops to die. Let me tell you that I spoke with comrades in the Army and told them: "I am going to attack San Juan del Norte. Leave, because you are in a trap."

Question: When do you expect to attack Bluefields?

Answer: My violation of secrecy does not extend that far. Ha, ha, ha! In not more than 60 days, 2 months. Within 2 months I will attack Bluefields.

Question: At the same time as the provisional government that you announced in San Juan del Norte is being formed?

Answer: Maybe, but the two steps are not connected. The provisional government is demanded by the development of the struggle, the dynamic of the process. We control 6,000 square kilometers and are fighting in 30,000 square kilometers -- one-fourth of Nicaragua. But misunderstandings have arisen over the issue of Robelo's being in charge of it. Can you imagine Robelo in this jungle? Ha, ha, ha! It could be him or anyone else. I believe that what will be formed will be a revolutionary steering committee with a clear leader. And let us hope that it will not be for long, since the dynamic of the war is accelerating.

Question: The mining of the ports has sparked off a major worldwide protest, and even the U.S. Congress has condemned it, as have the majority of European and Latin American foreign ministries. Was the mining a mistake? Has it harmed you more than the Sandinists?

Answer: How could it fail to harm us? The CIA collaborates with the Nicaraguan Democratic Forces. All they do is repeat the actions that we carry out. We bombard Managua; they bombard Corinto. We take the customs house at Penas Blancas; they take El Spino. We place a mine; they place another mine. They copy everything.

Question: ARDE mined the Port of El Bluff at Bluefield....

Answer: Yes, but we did it; the CIA does not have to come and mine it.

Question: Do you receive no cooperation from the CIA?

Answer: Directly, as far as we know, we receive nothing.

Question: You personally led the occupation of San Juan del Norte. Did you participate directly in the fighting? Did you return to the firing line?

Answer: Let me tell you, between ourselves. When I want to join the firing line the comrades say to me: "Commander, you will be risking your life, don't do it." And they dissuade me. But at San Juan del Norte it was useful for me to use a helicopter that we own, and, taking advantage of the very good moonlight, I took off in it at night. We have a semiautomatic grenade launcher. I picked up three grenades and we took off. How could I have imagined that they would have rockets there? So I flew over their positions. There was roar of firing. It was a real onslaught, just like in the movies.

When we took the position and I saw the rockets -- they had been aiming at me with SAM missiles and nearly shot me down. The prisoners tell me that they did not fire because I was flying so low, so close to the ground. Imagine if they had brought me down. All the world's newspapers would now be announcing the death of "Commander Zero." I can assure you that a week later Yankee imperialism would have been invading Nicaragua.

Question: What would be your stance in the event of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua?

Answer: I was asked this question at a meeting at the White House. This was my reply: As Sandinists, we are anti-interventionists and criticize the invasions of Grenada, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. If the United States makes the historic mistake of invading Nicaragua, I will do what I have always done -- side with the Nicaraguan people.

Question: Would you combat the invaders?

Answer: If the people combat the invaders, so will I. If they accept their presence I could only accept it. I believe that the Nicaraguans would not accept the Yankees' presence. Nicaragua has suffered three U.S. invasions already and it combated them. It is the country most invaded by the Yankees, but it is also the most anti-interventionist and most nationalist country, though it is not known for it.

Question: Do you feel old yet? Do you find the guerrilla struggle in the jungle tiring?

Answer: No, I am a young 48. Ideals do not grow old. An ideal can raise you to the most exalted heights.

Question: How do you view the electoral process in Nicaragua?

Answer: As Sandino viewed the Moncada electoral process. In my opinion it is a farce, an insult to our intelligence and to national dignity.

Question: What would you think if the Democratic Opposition Coordinating Committee decided to participate in the elections?

Answer: The coordinating committee may decide to participate, but if there is no freedom of the press, no freedom of political and religious creeds, if foreign invaders are not expelled, if the promises of the original revolutionary blueprint are not kept, there can be no free elections. If these promises are kept, we will gladly drop our stance and withdraw from the armed struggle. We spent a year talking with the commanders; they said that we seemed like charlatans. We spoke to the world, asking it to support observance of the original revolutionary blueprint. The Mexicans threw us out and the Spanish and Venezuelans did not receive us. What did they want? To see this bloodshed?

Question: How has ARDE developed during this year of struggle?

Answer: It is the fastest growing movement in the history of liberation wars. People cannot believe the official communiques or men who have struggled all their lives. Before May 1983 I said that I was going to start the war. In May I took the San Juan River with 360 men. By 1 June I had 2,000 men. We now total over 4,000. And I am completing the arming of another 10,000 men -- I have the means to do so -- because our members are constantly growing.

Question: What is the main reason that peasants join the ARDE? For religious or ideological reasons?

Answer: It is simpler than that. Out of physical necessity. Out of hunger. They are hungry. If you ask someone how things are in Nicaragua he will tell you: I am hungry. That simple.

Question: You have been accused of many things, of being personalist, of being fond of power. We have frequently heard it said that if the Sandinists had made you a commander of the revolution you would not have left Nicaragua.

Answer: I was the 10th member of the national leadership. I was the most powerful man in Nicaragua -- the 10th member of the National Junta (undeclared), a guerrilla commander, a brigade commander (the highest military rank, the only commander in charge of an entire brigade), a member of the Sandinist People's Assembly, a member of the Defense and Security Committee, and the foremost figure of that revolution. What do you think?

Question: What description bothers you most? That of traitor?

Answer: None. We know the source of such things, friend. What concerns me is the opinion of the people, and the Nicaraguan people know that I have devoted my life to them and that I will never betray them.

ARDE LEADER ROBELO COMMENTS ON ELECTION

PM301421 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 19 Apr 84 p 17

[Unattributed interview with Alfonso Robelo, leader of the political wing of the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, in Paris -- date not given]

[Text] LE QUOTIDIEN: What is the present military situation in Nicaragua?

Alfonso Robelo: The Revolutionary Democratic Alliance now controls more than 8,000 square km of national territory and our fighters are in contact with the Sandinist Army over almost 20,000 square km. You know that we occupied the city of San Juan del Norte last week. Since then that city has suffered an intensive naval and air bombardment by the Sandinists, causing widespread damage. We will not hang on to San Juan del Norte because we are fighting a guerrilla war and not a static war. The important thing for us is to continue to harass the enemy with the 8,000 men we now have.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Why did you launch this offensive?

Alfonso Robelo: To step up military pressure on the Sandinists and thus force them to negotiate a political resolution to the crisis. Our people have suffered too much since Somoza's days, earthquakes and now the Sandinists, for us to wish to continue the war indefinitely. What we want is a worthy and acceptable political solution.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What are you proposing to the Sandinists?

Alfonso Robelo: First we want to be involved in the election scheduled for 4 November. But first several conditions must be fulfilled. The present authorities must first accept the participation of all the country's representative forces without exception, aside, of course, for common criminals. Second, the Sandinist Front must clearly show its desire for democratization by separating the roles of the party and the Army, which is now no longer a national force but simply a militia serving the party.

Finally the election must take place under the control -- I say control and not merely observation -- of a Latin American body that might be the Contadora Group. An office of the "Inter-American Human Rights Commission" must also be opened in Managua. If public freedoms are restored and participation by all sections of opinion guaranteed, the election can take place and we will respect the results whatever it is. We trust the Nicaraguan people and the young people.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Do you think the Sandinists will rally round to this program?

Alfonso Robelo: Frankly and unfortunately I doubt it. I also doubt that the election will be held on the scheduled date, in other words 4 November. That is why it is essential for the democracies to exert pressure on the government to force it to respect the election. The military situation cannot be used as a pretext for postponing or canceling the election. That situation is even worse in El Salvador and yet people are voting there.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What are your links with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], the other resistance movement?

Alfonso Robelo: Despite several attempts, we have not yet succeeded in finding an area of agreement. The FDN's military grass roots, like ours, come from workers and peasants, the civilian leaders are respectable and honest, but it is important to realize that the FDN's military command includes too many members of Somoza's former guard. We do not consider that is a good thing. It is a point that divides us.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What aid are you receiving from the United States?

Alfonso Robelo: We have asked for aid from the United States and from other democratic countries. We have never received a reply. I can also assure you that we do not receive orders from Washington, the CIA, or any foreigner. I would like to be able to say as much for the leaders in Managua, where nothing is done without Castro's consent.

LE QUOTIDIEN: What are you doing in Paris?

Alfonso Robelo: I am touring Europe. I have already visited Spain, Italy, the FRG, and Britain. We are asking these democracies to exert pressure on the Sandinist regime to honor the revolution's pledges. Nothing else.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Have you met with French socialist leaders?

Alfonso Robelo: No.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Do you think you will?

Alfonso Robelo: I very much hope so, but it is not up to me.

LE QUOTIDIEN: Do you think the war will continue for a long time?

Alfonso Robelo: If the Sandinists accept our proposals for the election and return to the democratic process, we will promise to immediately end all our military activities. Therefore it is not for us to answer your question.

INTERNAL REBEL GROUPS FORM UNITED FRONT

PA012013 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1816 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Three anti-Sandinist groups operating in several Nicaraguan cities and towns have decided to unite to form the so-called Nicaraguan Internal Front [Frente Interno Nicaraguense], FIN.

The information was revealed today to the news media by Commander Julio Zelaya Rojas, who pointed out that FIN is made up of the following groups: Nicaraguan Internal Revolution [Revolucion Interna Nicaraguense], RIN; Nicaraguan Revolutionary Unity [Union Revolucionaria Nicaraguense], URN; and the Third Path Movement, M-3.

He said that these groups have acted independently in sabotage operations against factories, agricultural installations, and all the areas where they can deal "overwhelming" blows against the Sandinist regime.

"We do not represent a new rebel group. We only united our current efforts in a common front, because we believe that we will end the Marxist-Leninist dictatorship imposed on Nicaragua by the Sandinists only if we unite.

Zelaya Rojas explained that part of his mission in Honduras, "in addition to reporting the creation of FIN, is to establish contacts with other anti-Sandinist leaders."

He pointed out that he will soon meet with leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN; the Miskito, Sumu and Rama Indian and Creole organization in the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, MISURA; and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE.

"We wish to unite all the Nicaraguan rebels, but this must be a pragmatic unity, free of any personal interests or individual policies," Zelaya Rojas said.

He clearly stated that FIN advocates the U.S. policy in Central America, "but we do not have any links with the CIA or other U.S. intelligence organizations, and we do not receive any U.S. aid."

He pointed out that their aid comes from Nicaraguan businessmen and patriots in exile, adding that they would like to receive U.S. economic and military aid.

Zelaya said that "currently there prevails an atmosphere of rebellion among the Nicaraguan people; however, we must try to stop the Sandinists from holding the elections, because they might try to kill this rebel spirit with their tricks."

MAY DAY CELEBRATED IN HAVANA, GUANTANAMO

Report on Havana Ceremony

FL011445 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1351 on 1 May began live coverage of the May Day celebration in Revolutionary Square, Havana.

The color television coverage began with a medium shot of the reviewing stand. The announcer spoke briefly with a spectator who said that she was waiting for Fidel Castro. At 1355 GMT the camera provided a medium shot of Castro arriving with Politburo members. The announcer described the action seen on the screen, accompanied by panoramic shots of Revolutionary Square. At 1358 GMT the announcer said that the ceremony was about to begin and a camera focused on Castro standing in the square surrounded by party leaders, waiting to lead the march.

The ceremony started at exactly 1400 GMT with a band and chorus. The camera panned a mass of people in the square, then returned to Castro and his entourage as they led the march along the square. The announcer described the delegations present at the celebration as the camera cut from Castro and his entourage to the crowd, then back to Castro. Castro and his entourage arrived at the reviewing stand after a 5-minute march. A medium shot of Castro was followed by a frontal closeup as he waved to the crowd and applauded. A panoramic shot showed the crowd holding a banner which said: "Heroes of Grenada, Present!" The square was decorated with huge photographs of Ernesto Che Guevara, Camilo Cienfuegos, and other historic figures, including Marx and Lenin.

At 1408 GMT TV staff announcer Manolo Ortega began the ceremony by introducing CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga, who began to speak at 1410 GMT.

The march began immediately after the speech, at 1424 GMT, accompanied by band and choral music. The first lines of marchers carried large photographs of the Cubans killed in the Huambo dynamite attack. Pioneers accompanied each photograph. The photographs were followed by a huge banner that read "Heroes of Huambo, Present!"

The camera cut from the parade to the crowd, then faded to an aerial shot of Revolutionary Square. The camera returned to the reviewing stand for a closeup shot of Fidel, then to the march, then to a long shot of the crowd. The announcer provided a running commentary on groups passing before the reviewing stand. Organized group marching with banners and posters were mixed with less organized groups of Cubans. The announcer stated that nearly the entire population of Havana was expected to march, specifying that this was a march and not a parade.

Veiga Speaks in Havana

FL011515 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1410 GMT 1 May 84

[Speech by Roberto Veiga, Secretary General of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, at May Day ceremonies in Havana's Revolutionary Square -- live]

[Text] Comrades, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Comrades of the party and the government, distinguished guests, workers:

We gather on International Workers Day to pay homage to the dear Cuban working class, which together with the working peasants, our creative intellectuals, youth, women, and all the combative people, is overflowing this historic Revolutionary Square to express once again before the image and memory of Martí and the beloved presence of Fidel their decision to advance along the victorious path of socialism and communism.

[applause]

Today for our workers -- free forever of exploitation, injustice, and misery, and absolute masters of their fate -- 1 May is a joyful day of patriotic and revolutionary reaffirmation. With that spirit of fighting and victory, we raise our flags of solidarity with the proletariat, which in diverse corners of the world confronts merciless capitalist exploitation, fights against fascist orders, suffers exile, demands a better future for their children, and makes this date a day of struggle in the demand for freedom, work, security, and peace.

We reach this 1 May with the unshakable decision to complete all agreements made at the 15th Congress of the CTC and of the 8th Plenum of the Communist Party of Cuba -- especially those agreements dealing with improving the quality of our labor in producing each day with lower costs, increasing the amount of raw materials and energy saved, raising economic efficiency to the maximum, and moving toward the goal of making the majority of companies profitable.

In matters dealing with the sugar harvest, this date marks the beginning of a stage of work that should be characterized by heavy refining and by the achievement of a high rate of industrial yield in the face of adverse climatic conditions. May can and should be a decisive month in sugar production, in the drive for spring planting, in clearing, cultivating, and in all the tasks which will guarantee raw material for the next sugar harvest. Therefore, no occasion is more appropriate to convey to our people and to Comrade Fidel the complete resolve of the sugar workers not to abandon their posts while there is one sugarcane plant left to cut or to refine. [applause]

On this 1 May, our combative people also reaffirm their pledge to continue preparing themselves to defend the country, at whatever cost. Militarily, today we are stronger than ever because we have more than 1 million militia members, because our reservists are better trained, and, together with the FAR, make up the powerful People's Army of the Cuban Revolution, capable of unleashing a war of all the people if the imperialist enemy dares to profane the sacred soil of the Fatherland. [applause]

At a time when the situation on our continent is becoming more and more serious because of the resurgence of the aggressiveness of imperialism and its crude interference in Central America, our people join the cry of progressive humanity and demand a halt to Yankee intervention in El Salvador and the attacks against Nicaragua. With all our hearts, we render an emotional tribute of admiration to and we reiterate our undeclining solidarity with the Salvadoran patriots and with the heroic sons of the fatherland of Sandino. [applause]

From this platform, we salute on this first day of May the workers of the world, the Soviet workers and peasants, and those from all the countries of the socialist community, engaged in the building of a new society, the exploited working masses who, in the developed capitalist countries and in the so-called Third World, are fighting a common struggle for social justice and peace.

We fervently remember the Chilean, Uruguayan, and Paraguayan workers who are victims of fascist terrorism. We also remember those in Lebanon, Palestine, and all in the Middle East who are facing Zionist aggression. Also the courageous combatants of the African National Congress [ANC], SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], Western Sahara workers, and all those who, from jails and battlegrounds, make this time one of patriotic, revolutionary, and internationalist reaffirmation.

We greet all our brothers who in other countries of the world are offering Cuba's generous aid as the highest expression of worker and revolutionary consciousness on this day of the worker.

We honor the eternal memory of those who have fallen in fulfilling their internationalist duty and the joint decision of thousands of Cubans who, like the civilian collaborators in Huambo, have reiterated, in the face of the traitorous aggression backed by imperialism, their determination to continue their solidarity services to other countries. [applause] On this 1st of May, we honor the Cuban civilian collaborators in Angola, sons of our nation, who next to a group of Angolan workers fell victim of another horrendous crime committed by racist South Africans and Yankee imperialism. They were workers, who, in Agostinho Neto's country, dedicated their intelligence and sweat to the grand task of rebuilding that country. But, their assassins are mistaken. Faced with this horrendous crime, millions of Cubans -- as we have said before -- have made clear their firm resolve to occupy the place left by their fallen brothers and to march to any place in the world which needs our collaboration. We will die before giving up being internationalists. [applause]

We greet our workers and farmworkers, all of our workers, those unionized, the youth, students, Pioneers, the heroic FAR combatants, the self-sacrificing keepers of domestic peace and security, and all of our combat-ready and revolutionary people who firmly make up the invincible ranks of the proletariat.

Once again, in his historic square, the people of Marti, Maceo, Mella, Camilo, Lazaro, and our invincible Commander in Chief Comrade Fidel will march. [applause] Our peoples' march through this square will be an unequivocal sign of socialism's and communism's irrepressible advance toward final triumph.

Long live international proletarianism! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the International Workers Day! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Cuba's Communist Party! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live Fidel! [Crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Raul Castro in Guantanamo

FL012108 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 May 84

[Excerpt] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, and Vilma Espin, alternate Politburo member and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], have presided over the largest, most internationalist, and best organized May Day ceremony ever held in Guantanamo Province. More than 150,000 people from the province condemned the crime committed at Huambo, and the Yankee military maneuvers in Central America and at Guantanamo Naval Base, which is located on the first anti-imperialist stronghold.

One hundred outstanding workers from different sectors were also seated on the platform. Municipalities having done the most outstanding work in mass organizations were also given prizes.

Angelis Mena, secretary general of the Guantanamo CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], enumerated the achievements reached by the workers in different sectors, specifically in the sugar harvest, where this province recorded the highest production in the country. El Salvador sugar cooperative, the first sugar refining plant in the nation to finish the sugar production plan, was awarded the highest honors.

The Guantanamo workers vowed, beginning tomorrow and until 15 July, to make a 75-day effort for victory and give momentum to production. Mena especially congratulated the Caimanera salt mine workers who established a new level in production only a few meters from the Yankee's base.

CSSR SICNS CREDIT AGREEMENT AS COMMISSION MEETS

FL011828 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The protocol of the seventh session of the Cuban-Czechoslovak Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation has been signed in Havana by Joel Domenech and Ladislav Gerle, vice presidents of the Councils of Ministers of Cuba and Czechoslovakia, respectively. A credit agreement was also signed for the remaining materials required for several thermoelectric powerhouses now being installed in Nuevitas, Camaguey Province.

Domenech stressed that the working sessions of the commission made it possible to study the results of earlier meetings and exchange information on the experience acquired to increase and extend the cooperative relationship. As part of the session, the first meeting was held for the coordination of the national economic plans of the two nations during the 5-year period 1986-90. The coordination meeting was held to examine the basic cooperative guidelines for investments and trade during that period.

UN DIRECTOR OF POPULATION AFFAIRS ARRIVES

FL011722 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Rafael Salas, executive director of the UN Fund for Activities in Population Matters [Fondo para Actividades en Materia de Poblacion], has arrived in Cuba on an official, friendly visit. Salas was received by Hector Rodriguez Llopart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], at Jose Marti International Airport. Salas gave his impression of Cuba and emphasized the successes achieved in the public health field and the free services provided in Cuba and in other nations.

PRESIDENT REAGAN CONCLUDES CHINA VISIT

FL011826 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] President Reagan has concluded a 6-day visit to the People's Republic of China and departed for the United States. During his stay in China, Reagan signed an agreement on nuclear cooperation and other documents that will facilitate the modernization of the Chinese Army and the penetration of U.S. capital.

U.S. MANEUVERS CONTINUE, PRACTICE FOR INVASION

FL012231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1905 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The "Ocean Venture" military maneuvers continued today with some 1,000 airborne troops parachuting over Vieques. The magnitude of these maneuvers is a first for the area.

The United States, which began these maneuvers last 20 April, has assigned 33,000 soldiers, 40 warships, and more than 300 aircraft to this operation.

The fundamental objective of the maneuvers is to practice establishing a beachhead -- as Ralph Hedges, chief of the U.S. Forces in the Caribbean, has stated -- to improve U.S. capabilities in the use of military forces and to protect its national interests. According to various U.S. media sources, these maneuvers are mainly directed at preparing for an invasion of Nicaragua.

Viequeans Condemn Exercises

FL011740 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] While all progressive nations -- in which the arms race is energetically condemned -- celebrate Workers Day, 30,000 U.S. Army soldiers today are continuing with the "Ocean Venture-84" maneuvers on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques. These maneuvers have been condemned by the inhabitants of the island, mainly farmers and fishermen, who are forbidden to work in their usual places. The U.S. military maneuvers will continue until 6 May.

COLOMBIA'S LLOREDA CITED ON C.A. WAR DANGER

FL020047 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has asserted in Panama City that the danger of a war in Central America has reached a critical point. Lloreda attended the sixth meeting of Central American foreign ministers and member countries of the Contadora Group, which has just concluded in the Panamanian capital. The final communique notes that after discussing the reports of the working committees created by the Contadora Group over a 48-hour period, the ministers decided to organize, systematize, and integrate all the documents to submit them for the consideration of the Central American governments as soon as possible.

FMLN CITED ON 1981-84 SALVADORAN MILITARY LOSSES

FL011728 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces have suffered more than 18,000 casualties since January 1981. During this period, the guerrillas captured about 6,000 weapons, large quantities of ammunition, and other materiel. This information was provided by the FMLN in a communique issued on the occasion of 1 May. The communique points out that the FMLN is a real alternative power. This message from the rebel general headquarters states that the special counterinsurgency war promoted and supported by the United States is being defeated, as is shown by the figures given. The document says that the FMLN has driven the Salvadoran Armed Forces from one third of El Salvador and that this third is controlled by rebel forces.

SALVADORAN CLASHES, CASUALTIES, SABOTAGE NOTED

Rebel Radio Claims Victory

FL270034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The guerrilla radio station Farabundo Marti has reported that Salvadoran guerrillas killed 19 of the regime's soldiers during the last outbreak of combat in Cuscatlan Province. The guerrillas also confiscated 15 rifles and large quantities of war materiel in Santa Cruz, Huichapa, El Limon, Hacienda Nueva, and Miraflores municipalities, Cuscatlan Province. Radio Farabundo Marti also reported that three of the regime's soldiers were captured during the attacks in this province, which is very close to San Salvador.

Troop Train Attacked

FL271320 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] It has been reported that the Salvadoran guerrillas have inflicted 19 casualties on the Army during recent fighting in the central Province of Cuscatlan. Meanwhile, SALPRESS news agency has reported that many soldiers belonging to the National Guard were killed or wounded when columns of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade attacked a train that was transporting troops from Usulután to San Miguel in the eastern part of the country. Other sources state that the death toll has exceeded six and that the total number of wounded is not yet known.

Fighting, Blackouts Reported

PA271944 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Text] At least seven NCO's of the Salvadoran Army's elite troops were killed in the last few hours in clashes with guerrillas in Piletas, in the Department of Usulután.

Guerrilla sabotage of electric lines has caused blackouts in three Salvadoran departments. Elite troops of the Atonal, Atlacatl, and Ramon Belloso Battalions, trained and equipped by the United States, participated with the 5th and 6th Infantry Brigades in an unsuccessful counterinsurgency operation that started on 20 April. Some units were deployed to Tenancingo, in Cuscatlan, where the guerrillas have besieged a paramilitary group's base. The Salvadoran Air Force has unleashed indiscriminate bombing raids against the civilian population in rural areas in Cuscatlan and San Miguel Departments, where special troops are conducting a counterinsurgency operation.

Eastern Salvador Blacked Out

PA281851 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Salvadoran rebel commandos have destroyed a high voltage tower, leaving the entire eastern area of El Salvador without power. Official sources of the Salvadoran regime said that since the armed conflict began in the country the guerrillas have carried out approximately 600 attacks against the power network.

Other dispatches report that the Army is continuing its large counterinsurgency operation north of Estanzuelas, Usulután Department, where the 15 September Dam, one of the largest dams in the country and the only one that supplies power to the eastern areas, is located.

FMLN CHARGES KILLING OF CIVILIANS BY ARMY

PA292243 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The FMLN has reported that the Salvadoran Army has killed 116 civilians, mostly children, in a counterinsurgency operation near Guazapa Hill. The report added that in the first 3 weeks of this month, the Salvadoran Armed Forces attacked that important guerrilla bastion by air and land, destroying over 280 houses, burning 3 tons of grain, and killing 153 head of cattle. The rebel station Radio Venceremos charged that such actions, including the massive indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas, are a part of the antiguerrilla, scorched-earth tactic promoted by the U.S. military advisers in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Salvadoran tyranny have threatened to hamper the 1 May celebration announced by many labor unions, by predicting that the festivities will culminate in violence. The Army has accused the Salvadoran Unified Trade Union Movement of receiving orders from the armed opposition to create disturbances in the cities.

NICARAGUA SENDS COSTA RICA PROTEST NOTE

FL011744 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has reported that soldiers are pushing about 500 counterrevolutionaries back toward Costa Rica.

It also condemned the Costa Rican authorities' complicity (?in counterrevolutionary activities) and the resumption of the Honduran Army's attacks against Nicaragua. In a protest note sent to Costa Rica, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry stated that the mercenaries who tried to take over the El Castillo military installation, near the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border, were forced to retreat, leaving one soldier and seven comrades dead. [as heard]

The note strongly protested the Costa Rican Government's not having initiated measures that would guarantee that CIA-backed counterrevolutionary mercenaries would not use the protection of Costa Rican territory. The note said that these attacks coincided with the resumption of the Honduran Army's attacks against Nicaragua's northern border posts.

SANDINISTS RELEASED BY PASTORA ARRIVE IN MANAGUA

PA281907 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] A total of 48 Sandinist Army reservists who had been kidnapped and taken to Costa Rica by mercenary forces have returned to Managua, while 12 others are still being held in Costa Rican territory, according to Nicaraguan Commander Hugo Torres. The chief of the Political Directorate of the Nicaraguan Army received the youths who so patriotically defended the San Juan del Norte community, despite the numerical superiority of the counterrevolutionary forces, at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua. Torres reiterated the charges that some officials of the Costa Rican Government are working in complicity with counterrevolutionary bands, carrying out instructions and plans designed by the U.S. Government which, he noted, places in doubt the neutrality proclaimed by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge.

The Sandinist leader added that traitor Eden Pastora is operating freely in Costa Rica, where he mobilizes helicopters and light planes which take off and land in that neighboring nation. He explained that the mobilization of so many personnel can only be possible with the cooperation of Costa Rican Government officials and the financing of the United States through the CIA.

NICARAGUANS CLAIM VICTORY IN FIGHTING IN NORTH

FL011604 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army is pursuing approximately 500 counterrevolutionaries who are attempting to return to their bases in Honduras after failing in their plan to occupy (Cerro Quilande), north of the Nicaraguan departmental capital of Jinotega.

The report, released by Commander Javier Carrion, chief of the Nicaraguan 3d Military Zone, adds that the head of those mercenary forces, whose name is (Mike Lima), was wounded in the fighting. Carrion added that the counterrevolutionary forces were decimated by the Sandinist Army in the fighting in (Cerro Quilande), where the Somozists lost about 100 men killed and 50 wounded. Captured mercenaries stated that 15 wounded counterrevolutionaries were murdered by the Somozists themselves to avoid having to evacuate them.

More Fighting in North

PA292251 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] It has been reported from Managua that counterrevolutionary forces that infiltrated Nicaragua from Honduras suffered eight casualties during a clash that occurred near La Paz, in Jinotega Department.

It has also been disclosed that 120 counterrevolutionaries died during confrontations that took place between 16 and 23 April in the northern and southern areas of Nicaragua.

In addition, it has been reported that eight civilians were murdered in the northern and southern sectors of Zelaya Department by counterrevolutionaries who also caused \$80,000 worth of damage.

PROTEST FAST BEGUN BY 20 MOTHERS IN ARGENTINA

PA281917 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] A group of 20 members of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo organization have begun a 4-day fast to demand that the problem of the missing persons in Argentina be clarified. The fast began last night when the organization was celebrating the 7th year of its weekly demonstrations, which are held every Thursday.

It has also been learned that a powerful bomb exploded inside the building that houses the noncommissioned officers' club in downtown Buenos Aires. No victims have been reported. No organization has claimed responsibility for this attack, the first since President Raul Alfonsin assumed office.

URUGUAYAN REGIME CLOSES TWO MORE PUBLICATIONS

PA281849 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] The Uruguayan Government today closed the weekly SOMOS IDEA of the Blanco Party after it gave prominent treatment to the arrival in Buenos Aires of party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. The Uruguayan tyranny also ordered the suspension for 2 months of the liberal newspaper BUSQUEDA for the third time since it was first published.

Information from Montevideo indicated that three commercial establishments were bombed in that capital, while the residence of the director of the suspended newspaper CINCO DIAS, Ignacio Lezama, was attacked with powerful firearms. There were no dead or wounded, but the attacks caused large material losses.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Brazilian opposition parliamentarians is expected to arrive in Montevideo next Sunday. The delegation will be accompanied by labor leaders and human rights defense organizations, headed by the son of Raul Sendic. The delegation intends to meet with the Tupamaro leader [Raul Sendic], being held at La Libertad prison.

BLANCO PARTY LEADER ON URUGUAYAN SITUATION

PA290426 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, exiled leader of Uruguay's Blanco Party, has stressed in Buenos Aires that only the unity of all political forces and popular mobilization will be able to put an end to the military dictatorship that has been ruling Uruguay since 1973.

In a statement to the Buenos Aires morning newspaper CLARIN, Ferreira Aldunate advocated a return to the 1967 Constitution and warned the traditional Uruguayan political parties against negotiating an amendment to the Constitution with the military chiefs in the parties' eagerness to hold elections.

He said: Let's say no right now to any amendment to the Constitution. This "no" is more than a party position because it expresses the people's position. Ferreira Aldunate also told CLARIN that he is willing to resign his presidential candidacy if the Uruguayan regime assures the full enforcement of liberties, eliminates the possibility of civilians being tried by the military, and guarantees the participation of all citizens, political parties, and philosophies in the elections.

In addition, it has been reported from Paris that a delegation of European scientists will visit Uruguay this weekend to learn about the situation of political prisoners in that country.

To Return From Exile

PA300026 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, exiled leader of the Blanco Party of Uruguay, has said in Buenos Aires that he will return to his country before the November elections despite the Uruguayan military regime's threats.

In Buenos Aires, before more than 6,000 representatives of Uruguayan political parties and organizations, Ferreira Aldunate said he is willing to withdraw his presidential candidacy if the government unconditionally restores democracy in Uruguay.

In December last year, the Blanco Party, one of the two traditional parties in Uruguay, designated Ferreira Aldunate principal candidate for the coming elections.

Ferreira Aldunate faces an arrest warrant issued against him by an Uruguayan military judge. This warrant might be enforced if Ferreira Aldunate returns to Montevideo.

Nevertheless, the opposition leader has said that what will happen after he arrives in Montevideo will not depend on what the military men want to do, but on what the people will permit.

BRIEFS

HAVANA-BAGHDAD DIRECT TELEPHONE -- The Cuban Ministry of Communications has announced that as of 1 May direct telephone communication between Havana and Baghdad, capital of Iraq, will begin. People living in the provinces will continue to use the operator for making calls to that country. [Summary] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 1310 GMT 1 May 84 FL]

GRENADAPOLICE ORDERED TO SEIZE ILLEGAL NEWSPAPERS

FL011946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1906 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 1 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government has ordered the police to seize any illegally published newspapers appearing on the street, according to government sources. The sources said government leader Nicholas Brathwaite gave the order to police commissioner, Barbadian Mervyn Holder, last Friday.

Persons wishing to publish a newspaper here have to file a statutory declaration with the registrar of the Supreme Court spelling out, among other things, the names and addresses of the proprietor, printer, or publisher. They also have to put a 1,000 east Caribbean dollar (1 EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) bond with the registrar to assist in meeting any award the court may make in libel and other cases.

The sources, which did not want to be identified, said two new Grenadian newspapers, INDIES TIMES and VISION, could be adversely affected by the government decision. INDIES TIMES is published by a foundation run by former government ministers, VISION by National Democratic Party (NDP) leader George Brizan. The sources said the government had also warned the state-run West Indian Publishing Company against printing papers which broke the publication rules.

ST LUCIASIX CABINET MINISTERS SWITCH PORTFOLIOS

FL301910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1939 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 28 (CANA) -- Six ministers in the St. Lucia Government switched portfolios in a cabinet reshuffle announced here today.

A government statement said that, effective immediately, Minister of Health and Housing Allan Bousquet changed position with Clendon Mason, who held the Communications and Works Portfolio. Mason, however, retains his former responsibility for labour and national insurance.

This was the only reshuffle that involved full-fledged ministers. Four ministers of state were reassigned in the other changes, which a government spokesman said was to broaden their experience. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health Clarence Rambally traded places with Ferdinand Henry, who was in Agriculture, Lands, and Fisheries. Minister of State for Tourism Peter Phillip switched with Brian Charles, who was attached to the Ministry of Communications and Works.

Following is the full cabinet:

John Bristol -- minister of state, Prime Minister's Office.

Romanus Lansiquot -- minister for youth, community development, social affairs, sports information, and broadcasting.

Senator Margarita Alexander -- minister for education and culture.

Clendon Mason, minister for health, housing, and labour.

Ferdinand Henry, minister of state, Ministry of Health, Housing, and Labour.

J.R.A. Bousquet, minister for communications works and transport.

W.G. Mallet, minister of trade, industry, and tourism.

Ira Dauvergne, minister for agriculture and lands.

Peter Phillip, minister of state, Ministry of Communications, Works, and Transport.

Clarence Rambally, minister of state, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Louis George, minister of state, Ministry of Education and Culture.

PRESIDENT BURNHAM SPEAKS AT MAY DAY RALLY

FL012130 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 1 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham today announced that public sector workers are to be granted wage increases this year, bringing an end to a virtual wage freeze, imposed in 1979 because of Guyana's poor economic performance.

The announcement was made at a May Day rally at the National Park here and followed a march through the main streets of the city by thousands of workers. It follows the passing of legislation last month giving the president the right to decide if public servants get pay increases and at what level. The government can also now negotiate with the umbrella government-controlled Trade Union Congress (TUC), by passing its 22 member unions.

Burnham did not specify the percentage rise. But he said: "Whatever the increases, we will ensure that the pensioners also benefit and these will be retroactive to January 1984."

"As you know, last year we gave increases in salaries to the teachers, and this year such increases will be for the rest of the public sector," he added.

"There is a slight difference of opinion between the government and the TUC [Trade Union Congress], but I hope that this will be resolved soon," he told the gathering amid cheers.

Burnham said the difference was not a major one, and it concerned "a poorer differential between certain types of workers for example, a nurse who would earn the same money as an office assistant."

Burnham also spoke of the problems facing the country. Referring to the smuggling of gold out of Guyana, he said steps must be taken to bring an end to this practice.

"Things are too tough for us to take five. There must be dedication, imagination and commitment by all Guyanese, if we are to overcome the problems facing us," Burnham said.

"We must understand that if we do not produce, the economy of the country cannot afford the increases which we plan to give the workers," he added.

Earlier, general secretariat of the TUC, Joseph Pollydore, called for a strengthening of the country's economy "so that we can have a strong trade union movement." Pollydore referred to increases in the cost of living and the "instant increase in every commodity in the country as well as in the price of services."

The veteran trade unionist regretted that the powerful opposition-backed Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) with a membership of 21,000, the Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU) with a membership of 6,000, the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE) with a strength of 1,200 and the University of Guyana Staff Association (UGSA) with 65 members, boycotted the May Day parade and rally.

TUC President Samuel Walker issued a call for "unity, industrial peace, honesty, dedication and a commitment to work."

He said that although the trade union movement was "faced with certain problems, it has made and continues to make a valuable contribution to the welfare of workers."

This year's May Day celebrations also coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founder of trade unionism in the Commonwealth Caribbean, Hunbert Critchlow.

Critchlow founded the British Guiana Labour Union, now the Guyana Labour Union, whose president on leave is Burnham.

JAGAN EXPLAINS ABSENCE FROM MAY DAY RALLY

FL020109 Bridgetown CANA in English 2355 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 1 (CANA) -- The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) explaining its absence and that of the country's largest union from a workers' rally addressed by President Forbes Burnham said "May Day is not an occasion for the workers to march arm-in-arm with the oppressors."

"It is a day to call a spade a spade, to attack imperialism and the (governing People's National Congress) PNC ruling clique, to defend the workers' living standards," said PPP leader Dr Cheddi Jagan, who has boycotted May Day rallies since 1979.

Jagan is also honorary president of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) which has 21,000 members.

Four other unions were absent from today's rally at which Burnham announced that public workers will get unspecified wage increases this year.

The PPP criticised the organiser of the rally, the Trades Union Congress, which is controlled by unions favourable to the government, saying it "has failed to defend the rights of the workers against a blatant anti-working class government."